Monday, October 8, 2012 ★★★ 12 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 392 P16 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Metro Inquirer Daily Weekend Twitter: @inqWKND

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Lawmakers laud peace framework

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE GOVERNMENT'S preliminary peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is a step toward finding solutions to the problems that have long beset Muslim Mindanao and a boost to efforts to stabilize the country's internal security, Sulu Rep. Tupay Loong said yesterday.

Loong, who chairs the Muslim affairs committee in the House of Representatives, said he believed the government and the MILF were sincere about their latest efforts to forge peace by creating a new autonomous territory called Bangsamoro, and he was, for the moment, "optimistic 100 percent" about the agreement.

The framework agreement lays down the groundwork for the creation of Bangsamoro in an effort to end a decadelong insurgency in

LAWMAKERS | A11

WAIT AND SEE Members of the breakaway Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) line up inside their camp in Datu Saudi, Maguindanao, as the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) agreed on a peace framework. Leaders of the BIFF, which broke away from the MILF, have adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward the peace process. CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ

P-Noy hails peace deal

Bangsamoro to replace ARMM setup

By Michael Lim Ubac

PEACE PROGRESS President Aquino and his adviser on the peace process, Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles, exchange pleasantries following an official announcement that the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have agreed on a road map aimed at ending decadelong separatist insurgency in Mindanao. ERIK DE CASTRO

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday said the government had reached a preliminary peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in a major breakthrough toward ending a decadeslong insurgency in the country's impoverished south.

Speaking in a nationally televised announcement attended by his entire Cabinet, Mr. Aquino described the deal as a "framework agreement"—a road map for establishing a new autonomous region to be administered by minority Muslims in Catholic-majority Mindanao.

"This framework agreement paves the way for a final and enduring peace in Mindanao," Mr. Aquino said.

"It brings all secessionist groups into the fold. No longer does the Moro Islamic Liberation Front aspire for a separate state," the President said. "This means that bonds that once held rifles will be put to use till-

PAGES | A14

Terms, details of draft peace agreement / A14

True or false: Was 1972 ambush faked?

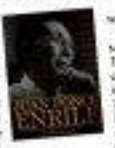
By Inquirer Research

DID PBM or did he not fake his ambush 40 years ago?

In response to numerous requests from our readers, the Inquirer did a fact-check on a controversial claim that the Senate president made in his newly published book, "Juan Ponce Enrile: A Memoir."

FACT-CHECKING

Enrile ambush



Enrile, the martial law administrator of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, said in his book that the ambush on his convoy on the night of Sept. 22, 1972, was not staged—a sentiment from what the then defense secretary disclosed during a historic press conference on Feb. 23, 1986, when he and then Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos announced their revolt against Marcos.

In other interviews with certain foreign correspondents, Enrile was also reported as saying that the ambush—one of the reasons cited by then President Marcos to justify his imposition of martial law—was faked.

So, which is which?

In his book, Enrile said that on Sept. 22, 1972, his three-vehicle convoy was driving through Wack Wack subdivision on his way home to Dasmariñas Village from Camp Aguinaldo where he had just briefed top military officers on the implementation of martial law.

"A speeding car rushed and

TRUE | A6

Enrile's real 'isanamata' / E5

MVP thrust tests policy on multimedia ownership

By Amando Doronila

THE COLLAPSE of the bid by Manuel V. Pangilinan (MVP), chair of Philippine Long Distance Co., to take over the giant media network GMA 7 blocked the expansion of the PLDT group into the politically strategic media of information sector.

ANALYSIS

The crash of the negotiations over a controlling stake in the "Kapuso" network left seismic reverberations across the Philippine corporate world, with far-reaching implications for the curbing of monopolistic, if not oligopolistic, trends in the country, and for the freedom and plurality of information in the media.

MVP THRUST | A12

Biz Buzz: Life after GMA 7 / D4

WHO REALLY BENEFITS

Coco levy funds: 'History repeats itself'

By Fernando del Mundo
Ghost Writer

THERE'S a sense of déjà vu in the Aquino administration's plans for some P100 billion in recovered assets illegally acquired with funds from the coconut levy imposed during the martial law years.

The refrain coming out of the government that the money should now be used "for the benefit of the farmers" has a familiar ominous ring.

It is similar to the series of decrees the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos promulgated beginning in 1973 that gave rise to a moment-consumer stabilization fund, a coconut industry development fund, a coconut industry investment fund—all on the pretext that they would improve the lives of the farmers.

In fact, say critics, the measures solely enriched close business associates of the martial law regime, beyond their wildest dreams.

Oscar Santos, 64, a former

COCO LEVY | A21

Farm coco levy fund group, farmers urge P-Noy / A21

300 pets attend Kabang's 'despedida'

By Nina Calleja

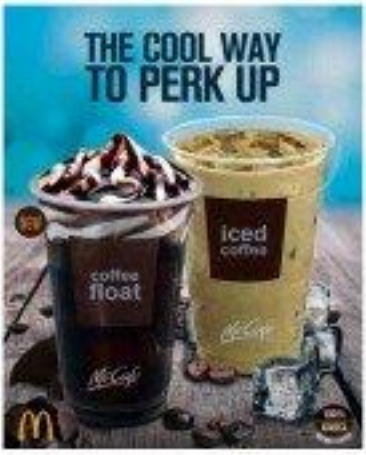
SOME OF THEM sat dutifully in their proper places, content to watch what the other guests were doing. A few grazed impatiently. Others tried to wander off and see what was happening around.

There were easily 300 of them—pet dogs of residents of Makati City and nearby areas. They had come to attend a "despedida" (sendoff) party thrown on Sunday by the city veterinary office and the Animal Welfare Coalition.

The honoree was Kabang, Zamboanga's 2-year-old hero dog.

A female aspin (asong Pinoy) that lost the upper portion of her snout to save two girls from being run over by a speeding motorcycle,

300 PETS | A15



NEWS	NEWS	LIFESTYLE	LEARNING	ENTERTAINMENT
Enrile, Trillanes restart word war / A2	**ADB revises** downward growth outlook for Asia / A8	**Shocking** state of heritage in PH / C1	**Metro** teachers get artistic treats / G1	**Pop superstar** Elton John to hold first Philippine show / F4

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Isabela/Cagayan	Occasional Rain
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Aurora	Occasional Rain
Tagaytay/Nasugbu	Partly Cloudy	Subic	Partly Cloudy
Clark	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Puerto Galera	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo, Boracay	Occasional Rain
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Occasional Rain
Coron	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Occasional Rain
Calamian	Occasional Rain	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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JPE, Trillanes resume word war

By Cathy Yamsuan

JUST WHEN everyone thought the smoke had cleared, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV have gone at it again.

This time, Enrile said he would not let the truth about Trillanes during next year's campaign—a move the Senate President believes would cut his young colleague's ambitions bid.

Trillanes, in turn, dared the chamber's elders member to unseat a senator on public policy he was willing to conduct after Enrile accused him of copying an old bill on the country's foreclosure statutory that Enrile had authored.

The word war that began three weeks ago was apparently refuse. And he accuses that Trillanes was behind a white paper that was circulated last week hitting Senate reporters allegedly on the take from Enrile.

Enrile replied that the list was left in the Senate press office.

Trillanes denied any hand in the anonymously printed charge sheet in a phone conversation with the Inquirer Thursday.

"I did not do that," he said, adding he would be the prime suspect behind the paper.

Trillanes also called other Senators to agree to days that he was behind the white paper.

He came close up after reporters noticed that the white paper included the names of Malacañang reporters whose questions to Palace spokesperson Ed Ermita Locsin's last month about the senator's love romance in back channel talks with Chairperson Gloria Arroyo have displeased Trillanes.

Enrile initially refused to discuss Trillanes in a radio interview yesterday when he was asked to comment about the younger senator's role in a book-banned supervisor at the height of tensions over the presence of Chinese vessels at Panatag (Scarborough Shoal) in April.

"I don't want to discuss that guy. He does not amount to anything to me," Enrile said.

But then he suddenly added: "I will declare him during the campaign. I will use his capacity before the people. That is the better reason."

Enrile said he would leave it to the ruling Senate committee to examine Trillanes' back-channeling efforts that he had questioned in an impromptu Senate speech in mid-September.

The Brady notes

Enrile first produced a sheaf of papers now referred to as the "Brady notes," said to be written by Philippine ambassador to China Sonia Brady about Trillanes' activities and statements at an unofficial reception.

The affair Trillanes delivered a speech decrying Enrile's involvement in the supposed rulemaking of the Oil Cartel[sic] and its partners from Camarines Sur.

The Senate President in turn questioned Trillanes' contacts and wondered whether the senator served the Philippines' interests during his 13 days/stints with the Oakwood mutineers.

In the radio interview Enrile said he would rather deal with Trillanes "outside the Senate so he could not say anything" about the Senate President taking advantage of his position in the chamber.

And then Enrile said, "He will lose votes. Else, look at his votes, some election time from the ayer, see that he is confident will support him."

Enrile let out a chuckle when asked whether he believed Trillanes was behind the other paper listing alleged benefit-lists of his peers.

"My God. Who would do something like that? Imagine coming like names of two radio an, there! to write the other's taking money from me? Maybe he's the one who pays off barkadas," the Senate President said.

When pressed, Enrile stated, "Wait for the campaign. I will have the truth about him before the people."

The no-air discussion about Trillanes started innocently enough with a question on whether the young senator would run for president in 2016. Electoral Tribunal following his defeat. to leave the presidential race to a result of the fight with Enrile.

Won't retaliate

The Senate President told dpbh anchor Ninth Rosete said he was not the type to retaliate. But added that Trillanes would not have been able to pass a bill without help in the chamber.

On Trillanes' supposed claim that he authored the Philippine Archipelagic Baselines Law or Republic Act No. 9522, Enrile said the younger senator merely got involved his bill on an earlier draft. Deputy Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza put together for Enrile sometime back.

"I made the Baselines Law," Enrile said.

Told that Trillanes' staff was set as e-mail to reporters saying that the senator had authored RA 9522, Enrile said: "Who is this guy? Why don't you look at the records? The one who drafted the baselines law that I sponsored was Tiong Silendoro, not Trillanes. Maybe his version was passed. This guy is promiscuous."

Trillanes later said out a text message responding to Enrile's charge on the baselines law.

"Just to educate Senator Enrile, in public policy making, there is no such thing as copying since best practices are supposed to be emulated," he said.

Don't reinvent the wheel

"You don't always reinvent the wheel. For example, if Singapore managed to curb corruption in a certain way, it would be wise for us to imitate them," Trillanes said.

It simply does, he "common-places," he said, to see legislation in both the Senate and the House of Representatives calling the same bill "But called their advocacies and could solve economic-political problems."

"If Senator Enrile does not remember, I'm willing to conduct a seminar for him. Otherwise, he could file an ethics case against me and expose his ignorance to the whole world," Trillanes said.

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*Because no two people are exactly alike, individual results will vary. Actual results may differ. Image adapted from liposonix.com

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'Leni's nomination ready a week early'

By Jose Bernardo Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—It was scripted.

All that drama about former Mara Lacson "Leni" Robredo's nomination decision to file her Certificate of Candidacy (COC) after supporters marched to her house to beg her to run had been "scripted," her political opponent, Rep. Luis Villafuerte, said yesterday.

Villafuerte, whose wife Sally is pitted against Robredo for the congressional seat of the third district of Camarines Sur, debated the widow of the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo had her certificate of nomination ready a week before the Oct. 1 deadline.

Villafuerte showed reporters Robredo's certificate of nomination from the Liberal Party (LP) dated Sept. 29.

Robredo denied being aware of the LP nomination date.

She said the LP nomination was handed to her in the afternoon of Oct. 2 when she was about to file her COC. She signed the nomination in front of provincial election supervisor Noriel Rañola, she added.

But she conceded that it might be true that some people worked on her nomination documents even before she had made her decision to run.

"It could have been possible that the COC documents may have been prepared earlier because when I accompanied that I didn't even have pictures, they told me all were ready and I only had to sign and thumb mark them," she said.

Robredo dismissed insinuations that the pressure to run allegedly

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True or false: Was 1972 ambush faked?

From page A1

passed the escort car where I was riding. Suddenly, it opened several bursts of gunfire toward my car and sped away. The attack was so sudden that it caught everyone by surprise. No one in the convoy was able to fire back," Enrile said in the book.

Enrile's convoy left the ballet riddled with bullets and returned to Camp Aguinaldo where he organized the incident in Marcos. The soon-to-be-dictator, according to Enrile's accounts, received some explosives "Greek army type ones" and some hand grenades.

In his book, Enrile said his political opponents were the ones who opened the wood after the 1986 People Power Revolution that the ambush was faked to justify the imposition of martial law.

"It is a fact that [an arms account for no] long ago that [the arms] were transported to the vault. . . . The accusations or ridiculous and preposterous," Enrile said in his book. "Whether I was ambushed or not, martial law in the country was already an irremovable fact. So what was the need to fake my own ambush?"

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Conflicting accounts

The banner headline of the Philippine Daily Inquirer's front page published on Feb. 23, 1986 read: "Enrile, Ramos lead 'revolt' against FM." One of the chapterheads accompanying the headline read: "1972 ambush fake—Enrile."

In his research, the Inquirer also came up several journalists who said that Enrile himself had admitted not only during the Feb. 22, 1986, press conference but also in several interviews that the ambush was fake.

In his 1988 book, "Waltzing with a Dictator," New York Times reporter Raymond Bonner wrote that while Enrile's wife, Cecilia, and their God had saved her husband, "God had 'had nothing to do with it. Marcos and Enrile had staged the 'ambush,' as the final justification for martial law."

Bonner said he had two long interviews with Enrile in December 1985. "He was emphatic that the attack on him had not been staged, but in February 1986, after he had broken with Marcos and led the revolt that ousted the Philippine president, Enrile admitted that the attack on his car had been faked," Bonner wrote.

"Several American intelligence officers told me that the attack was phony. 'Phoniest,' said one," Bonner added.

In her 1989 book, "Impossible Dream," Time correspondent Sandra Burton wrote: "Seasoned observers believed from the start that the attack had been staged. Even later, as he was in the midst of his years as exile from the Marcos regime, Enrile would confirm these suspicions."

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Katherine Ellison also said that Enrile himself admitted that the ambush was fake.

In her 1988 book, "Imelda," Ellison wrote: "Enrile revealed that he had not nearly escaped injury in a rpg-propelled assault of his car—as even he conceded in 1986 had been staged."

In his 1986 book, "The Quarter of the Tiger Moon," National Artist Nick Joaquin wrote about the people's reaction to the "confessions" of a certain Capt. Rolando Mendoza about the alleged plot to attack Malacañang and kill Marcos.

"The confessions enabled Ballsy to people who had just heard Enrile reveal that the 1972 attempt on his life was staged to give Mr. Marcos an excuse to declare martial law. People assured that Marcos was so used to faking things like that—remember, fake literary works, fake health—that he wasn't fake own his own assassination and death."

Lopez remembers

Oscar Lopez, who lived in Wack Wack where the ambush supposedly took place, narrated to be unaware of that fateful night in the 2000 book, "Phoenix: The Saga of the Lopez Family."

"After the shooting died down, I went out. I took a peek at what was happening outside my fence, and I saw the cars riddled with bullets. Bullets were lying there and I thought, 'This car was empty,'" Lopez said in the book.

The car was Enrile's. At the time, Lopez did not know who owned the car, but he did know "it had been an ambush."

"But [then happened] to be bringing out our two-car driveway at around that time, so he saw the whole thing. He told me that there were three other cars in the road ahead of Inside a Mercedes just. Some people started rubbing it with bullets to make it look like it was ambushed. But nobody got killed or anything like that. My driver saw this. He was describing it to me," Lopez said.

Lopez said he decided to call the Manila Chronicle, where he worked then by Mr. family. "My first move was to call up the Chronicle. I told the people that there had been some shooting here in Wack Wack. They said somebody was, but he was told that Enrile was supposedly ambushed. But I knew even then that the attack had been staged. Enrile admitted that it was all staged afterwards. But Marcos used this incident as a pretext to declare martial law."

In his column posted on the InterAksyon.com website, Jasper Dickey Soares recalled: "In February 1986, while barricading with Basic [Colonel Rafael] Ileto in Camp Aguinaldo, I let President Ferdinand Marcos learned they were planning against him. [It] told the nation the ambush was staged. On radio, he confessed that Marcos ordered the bogus attack and called it the 'final act' by the enemies and, another President told 10 years earlier, the San ntano that made him declare martial law."

Sources: Inquirer Archives; "Impossible Dream" by Sandra Burton; "Waltzing with a Dictator" by Raymond Bonner; "Enrile" by Katherine Ellison; "Phoenix: The Saga of the Lopez Family" by Raul Rodrigo; "The Quarter of the Tiger Moon" by Quijano de Manila; Interaksyon.com

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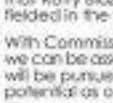

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
CHAIRMAN & CEO

A GESTURE OF HONOR: DUTY TO COUNTRY BEFORE PERSONAL AGENDA

"... I'm happier as a legislator but the call of duty to pursue the president's reform agenda in BOC is strong." – Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon

Gov't Watch applauds PNoy for heeding its request to retain Commissioner Ruffy Biazon at the Bureau of Customs despite earlier pronouncements that Ruffy Biazon is one of Liberal Party's Senatorial Candidates to be fielded in the 2013 Mid Term Elections.

With Commissioner Ruffy Biazon at the helm of the Bureau of Customs, we can be assured that the **program for TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY** will be pursued for the benefit of our nation and to maximize BOC's potential as one of the major sources of Government Revenues.

Gov't Watch reiterates its suggestions to undertake the following remedial measures:

1. **CONDUCT A DEEP SELECTION PROCESS WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS WHO WILL COMPOSE BOC'S ANTI-SMUGGLING TASK FORCE.** This is a stringent search for dedicated and incorruptible career oriented BOC personnel. They must be patriotic personnel who believes and supports PNoy's drive for transparency and accountability in government.
2. **BOC MUST SUBJECT ALL IMPORTATIONS TO A PRE-INSPECTION SCHEME SUBJECT TO A PROPER MANDATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.** These inspections must be conducted by duly accredited third party inspection companies such as SGS, COTECNA, BUREAU VERITAS and others.
3. **ESTABLISH A LINK BETWEEN BOC AND THE BIR.** This will result in an indisputable paper trail of tariff headings, duties and validations. Therefore, any wrong declaration or under valuation can be determined immediately and the proper taxes paid before shipment is approved for release by the BOC.
4. **DOJ MUST SET UP A SPECIAL PROSECUTION TEAM THAT WILL EXCLUSIVELY FOCUS ON SMUGGLING RELATED OFFENSES.** The role of this Special Prosecution Team is to WEED OUT CORRUPT BOC PERSONNEL.
5. **CONGRESS MUST REVIEW LAWS RELATED TO SMUGGLING.** Congress must amend laws on smuggling and impose stringent penalties by treating smuggling related offenses as ECONOMIC SABOTAGE in nature.

Gov't Watch supports Commissioner Ruffy Biazon's commitment to continue fulfilling his mission of TRANSPARENCY and ACCOUNTABILITY in the Bureau of Customs.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

Your comments or suggestions on this issue are important to us:

Do you Agree or Disagree that Commissioner Ruffy Biazon must be retained in the Bureau of Customs to continue PNoy's Drive for Transparency and Accountability?

GOV'T WATCH would like to get your comments or suggestions on it.
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'FOI needs Palace push'

VETTING the freedom of information (FOI) bill through its second reading would require a push from Malacañang and House of Representatives leaders, since many lawmakers are supposed to be preoccupied with the 2013 polls in the coming months, according to one of the bill's proponents.

Albert del Rosario-Kit Belgica-Belmonte Rep. Walden Bello said he was "very much optimistic" the bill would finally be voted on and approved in the public information committee level given the number of lawmakers who publicly declared their support for it, and also because Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has all publicly voiced out his support for the bill.

He stressed the stalled bill would be set for hearings.

But Belgica admitted that despite statements of support from at least 197 lawmakers, things would not be so easy.

A push from Malacañang or well as House leaders would be needed as the lawmakers would be grandstanding, anxious and running that the bill would be put to a vote in second and possibly third reading before Congress adjourns for the campaign season, he said.

He noted that Malacañang played a big role when the House voted to end the constitutional period of debates on the reproductive health (RH) bill.

On the day the House decided to end the interpellations on the RH measure, President Aquino called lawmakers to a meeting to explain his stand on the bill and to urge them to terminate the debates. They later did. But the House has not yet voted on the RH bill on second reading.

In the Senate, he hasn't seen the same kind of commitment from Malacañang for the FOI bill, Zeke B. Salazar

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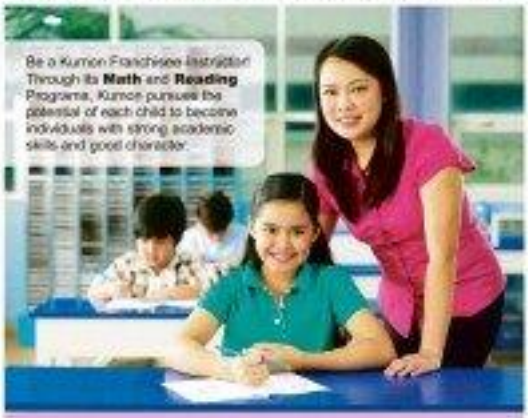

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Fil-Am who bared illegal status nabbed

By Herbert Ruedas

LOS ANGELES—Pulitzer Prize-winning Filipino-American journalist and immigration activist Jose Antonio Vargas was arrested Friday (late in the day in Manila) in Mississippi, Minnesota, after he was caught driving without a valid license.

Vargas, 31, who once was part of the Washington Post team that won the Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the 2008 Virginia Tech massacre, was booked into the Hennepin County jail and released on the same day, the Whisper's report of yesterday.

In the piece "My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant" which he wrote for The New York Times last year, Vargas revealed how he discovered his undocumented status as a teenager and how he kept it a secret as a working journalist. He didn't disclose was shocked the following month.

Vargas admitted in his essay that he migrated to the United States from the Philippines in 1993 at the age of 12 on the wish of his mother, Estelle Talman. He arrived in California, where his grandparents had arranged forged documents for him.

When he was 16, Vargas found out he was in the country illegally after he tried to get a driver's permit with a fake green card.

Since the essay was published in June 2011, Vargas has become a popular public figure in the forefront of a national campaign for immigration reform. He was on the cover of the June 27, 2011 issue of Time magazine.

Hearing about the arrest, hundreds of Vargas supporters posted their concern on Twitter and Facebook, responding to the postings Vargas tweeted, "Thank you to everyone for your support. I am fine."

Vargas has been promoting the passage of the Dream Act, which would provide a pathway to the legalization of the status of thousands of undocumented young immigrants. He has also launched the "Define American" campaign to facilitate support for the 12 million undocumented people in the United States, one million of whom are Filipinos.

The nonprofit news organization Mingaso reported that Vargas was stopped by a state patrol officer because he was wearing headphones while driving. He was on his way from the airport to Carleton College to give a lecture.

Vargas is scheduled to appear in Hennepin County court on Oct. 18.

Hennepin County participates in the Secure Communities program, a Bush era initiative that allows local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with the federal government in enforcing immigration laws by checking arrestees against immigration databases. If an individual is found to be undocumented, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement could serve him a case.

'P-Noy may be ousted for cybercrime law'

By Jerome Aning and Cathy Taruc

MANDAUE – Rep. Raymond Palicias, one of the petitioners against newly enacted Republic Act No. 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, wants the said President Aquino could be impeached for endorsing the controversial law.

Palicias said the President's endorsement of the libel provision in the law would result in the abridgement of the freedom of speech, which could make the Chief Executive liable for impeachment on the grounds of culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of the public trust.

"If Aquino is insisting that we accept the new law not only is he violating the Constitution, he is also betraying the public's trust," Palicias said, which is impeachable offenses," Palicias said.

The Supreme Court is expected to tackle over 15 petitions against the cybercrime law during an en banc session to convene Tet another petition will reportedly be filed today by Baron Mann led by Rep. Ben Celestinosa.

We were you filing, respondents don't mind President doesn't make you unimpeachable. If you continue to betray the public's trust, the reason we study is all set only for your impeachment but to your mother," Palicias said.

Palicias did not say if he would include the impeachment complaint against the President.

Both the House and the Senate, which would act as the impeachment prosecutor and court, respectively, not yet transmitted by Aquino office.

The President on Friday said he did not agree that the provision on online libel should be removed and that he had to enforce the law—otherwise he could be "impeached for dereliction of duty."

Sen. Marian Defensor Santiago, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments and revision of laws, predicted the Supreme Court would declare it unconstitutional citing the "overbroad nebulous vague" language used in the implementation.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile urged the public to let the Supreme Court deal with the Cybercrime Prevention Act.

"Let's leave it to the hands ("pasahan na nang") of the Supreme Court. That's how the system works. Besides we (lawmakers) cannot say we can always right. We are not gods. If something goes wrong in the execution or legislation, there is the Constitution and the Supreme Court to make a decision," Enrile said in Filipino.

But Enrile insisted that the Senate observed proper procedures when it delibated on and eventually approved the version of the cybercrime bill.

However, he lamented that he was not able to fully monitor the debates that happened in December.

Enrile admitted he was not an expert on the Internet or information technology. Also, he said he was too busy campaigning for his role as presiding officer of the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona when the debates took place.

Enrile's reports said that during the December interpellations, the debates centered on the definition and penalties for unclassified offenses like cybercrime. The online libel provision was not discussed extensively at the time.

Pagasa sees improved weather

METRO Manila and the rest of Luzon will have generally good weather today said Pagasa, dampened only by brief rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening, according to yesterday's weather bureau.

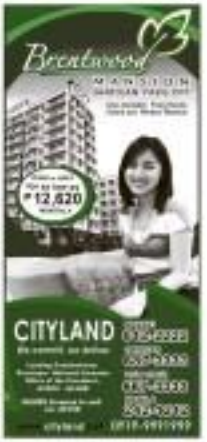
But an active low pressure area (LPA) detected east of Luzon could develop into a tropical cyclone once it enters the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) tonight.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) forecaster Benaiah de Leon said that even if the LPA entered the PAR, it still would not have a direct effect on the country.

"It is still too far to affect any part of the country. It would hardly affect the country even if it goes inside the PAR," De Leon said.

According to De Leon, the astronomical conjunction (CFC) affecting Saturn and the Earth would bring occasional light to moderate rains or thunderstorms in the afternoon.

– Journalist L. Andrade



HITACHI GST REBRANDED AS HGST, A WESTERN DIGITAL COMPANY

LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES, October 08, 2012 –Western Digital Corporation (WDC) completed the acquisition of Hitachi Global Storage Technologies (also known as Hitachi GST) from Hitachi Ltd. in March 2012. The acquired business of Hitachi GST has been rebranded as HGST, a Western Digital company.

Under the common ownership of WDC, HGST and WD are operating as separate subsidiaries with separate distinct brands and products, to meet the conditions of antitrust regulators.

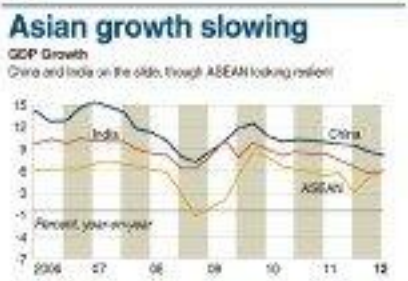
There will be no change in HGST's current business with this rebranding. All HGST products will continue to be available, except for products that reach end-of-life in the ordinary course of business. HGST will honor all warranties in accordance with their respective terms.

In the Philippines, HGST Philippines Corp. (formerly Hitachi Global Storage Philippines Corp.) employs more than 9,000 at its engineering and manufacturing facility located in the Special Export Processing Zones of Laguna Technopark in Binan, Laguna. HGST has received repeated awards for excellence from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), and holds Hall of Fame status in each PEZA category of recognition: Outstanding Employer, Outstanding Community Projects, Outstanding Exporter and Outstanding Environmental Performer. Likewise, the company was recognized by Asian CEO Awards as Top Employer of the Year in 2011 and its Site General Manager, Christian Angelo Kwan Ibarra, was named Exjet CEO of the Year in 2010.

For more information regarding the acquisition of HGST by WD, please visit: http://www.wdc.com/en/company/hgst/.

About HGST

HGST (formerly known as Hitachi Global Storage Technologies or Hitachi GST), a Western Digital company, develops advanced hard disk drives, enterprise class solid state drives, networked storage solutions and services used to store, preserve and manage the world's most valued data. Founded by the pioneers of hard drives, HGST provides high-value storage for a broad range of market segments, including Enterprise, Desktop, Mobile Computing, Consumer Electronics and Personal Storage. HGST was established in 2003 and maintains its U.S. headquarters in San Jose, California. For more information, please visit the company's website at http://www.hgst.com.



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ADB revises downward growth outlook for Asia

HONG KONG – Fitch, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned developing Asia to brace for shocks from the West. Then the Asian Development Bank (ADB) slashed its regional growth forecasts. Now analysts are asking: Has Asia lost its mojo?

The European debt crisis and weakness in the United States have long been drags on Asian growth, but those in China's difficult leadership transition and the outlook is grim.

"It wasn't supposed to turn out like this; growth in recent months has faltered again, confounding expectations of a gradual recovery," RBC economists Qu Hongbin and Frederic Neumann wrote in a report released last week.

"China is our culprit, though a wobbly West is equally to blame," they said.

As Asia's powerhouses China and India slow faster than many had expected, the ADB on Wednesday revised down its growth estimates for the region's emerging economies to the lowest level since 2009.

Echoing assessments from the IMF, the ADB also warned of significant risks arising from the eurozone and the uncertain recovery in America, both of which are major export markets for Asian manufacturers.

"Developing Asia is slowing down much more than we expected," ADB chief economist Changyong Rhee told reporters in Hong Kong.

End of two-digit growth

"The years of two-digit growth in Asia are coming to an end," he said.

The bank cut its 2012 growth forecast for developing Asia, which comprises 45 nations, from 6.9 percent in April to 6.1 percent—the lowest since 2009 when the region expanded 6 percent.

The ADB raised its growth outlook for the Philippines from 4.8 percent to 5.3 percent this year, citing the rise in investments by local firms, robust household consumption and increases in government spending. But next year, however, the ADB expects the country to expand at a slower pace of 5 percent.)

The ADB also revised downward its 6.7 percent to the 7.5 percent growth outlook for India by 2015. The region expanded 7.2 percent in 2011.

China's gross domestic product (GDP) was seen expanding 7.7 percent this year—slow by the country's recent standards—before bouncing back to 8.1 percent in 2013, still well below the 9.2 percent achieved last year.

The Manila-based lender said India would see GDP growth slow to 5.6 percent in 2012 before picking up to 6.2 percent next year.

Analysts are wondering what will China crack the whip and provide the policy stimulus its economy needs to avoid a hard landing. RBC economists Qu and Neumann said they had expected Beijing to act sooner.

"China has held back in providing a determined stimulus, with obvious implications for economic growth regionally," the economists wrote.

China's power shift

Domestic politics may be one reason Beijing seems unwilling or unable to use its fiscal resources to boost growth, with the Communist Party leadership on the verge of a once-a-decade power shift that has been choreographed by bureaucrats.

"Given that growth is highly investment-driven, supported especially by the public sector, any leadership change is bound to have a large impact on activity," Qu and Neumann said.

"This year, more so than during other transitions, political uncertainty may have had an especially restraining effect on investment decisions," they said.

Asia's murmuring unrest is likely to be underlined when the IMF provides an update on the global economy in a twice-yearly report on Tuesday in the run-up to weekend meetings of finance ministers from around the world in Tokyo.

But is it time to hit the panic buttons? Has Asia really lost its economic vim? Some analysts say no.

"Asia hasn't quite lost its magic yet, but patience is needed before growth transformation to more sustainable speed," Qu and Neumann said, predicting China would launch policy early next year when the new leadership is in place.

No need for panic

Rhee agreed that there was no need for panic. "This is a natural adjustment to a more sustainable growth pace," he said of the outlook for developing Asia.

Of all the regions in the world there are strategies to cope with the fallout from Europe and the United States, Asia has the most ammunition in its policy armory to respond, research economics Capital Economics said on Friday.

"Asia has significant scope to loosen both monetary and fiscal policy," it said. "Unlike in most of the developed world, interest rates are well above zero across Asia, leaving room to cut. Even interest rates to be cut in most countries."

Asean resilient

ANZ Bank said in an analysis last week that while growth in China and India was on the slide, the core economies of Southeast Asia were growing remarkably resilient.

It noted that while the rest of Asia had "rebalked" with the West—with domestic demand tracking weak external demand for exports—this was not the case in Southeast Asia's biggest developing economies.

"This has broken down recently in these Association of Southeast Asian Nations) over the past few quarters with domestic demand and foreign demand more largely moving in tandem," the ANZ report said.

This means that Asian economies such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam would "likely hold up well" if the global economy slowed further. AFP

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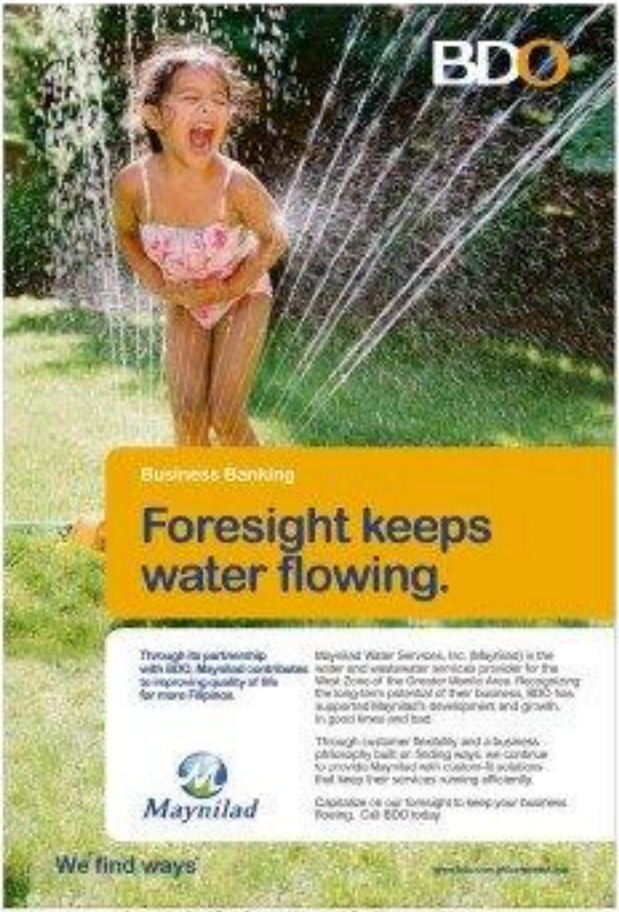

Asean, others see Unclos' relevance

By Jerome Aning

THE 14T Expanded Asean Maritime Forum (EAMF) ended on Friday in Manila with delegates recognizing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) and two regional treaties as the "rules-based" framework for resolving conflicting claims in the West Philippine Sea (south China Sea) South China Sea.

Foreign Undersecretary for Political Affairs Laura Del Rosario, who chaired the forum, said the delegates expressed continuing hope for the adoption of a regional Code of Conduct in the West Philippine Sea to resolve territorial disputes.

Code of Conduct

Aside from citing the Unclos as one of the rules, the delegates highlighted regional agreements such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea as frameworks for an eventual regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea," Del Rosario said.

The EAMF was attended by delegates from various governments and nongovernmental groups from the four states bordering the West Philippine Sea (south China Sea) — Brunei, China, Malaysia and the Philippines — as well as Asean countries, including Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Brunei.

The EAMF was convened to discuss maritime issues and challenges in the region, which includes China, Japan, Australia, India, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, the United States and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Avoid tensions

The forum was held amid heightened tensions between China and Japan and between China and several Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, over territorial disputes.

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Tanaseka, the keynote speaker, stressed "the need to establish mutually acceptable standards or characteristics of each region and in accordance with relevant international law," according to Basilio.

The delegates also tackled issues of cooperation on maritime issues such as maritime connectivity and capacity building, infrastructure and equipment upgrading, maritime security, protecting the marine environment, promoting navigation and fishery law with human principles of encouraging dialogue to address economic maritime challenges.

PH, US Marines begin annual joint exercises

SUBIC Bay Freeport—The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) starts today joint exercises with soldiers of the United States (US) to strengthen their defense partnership amid monitoring tensions between Manila and Beijing over the ownership of the Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal and other disputed islands in the West Philippine Sea (South China) Sea.

In a statement, First Lt. Christy Uteleg, director of the Philippine Marine Corps public affairs office, said the 14-day Philippines-US Amphibious Landing Exercise (Phibex) 2013 would focus on humanitarian assistance, disaster response and relief preparedness, maritime security and community development.

Annual training

Uteleg said Phibex was held yearly providing joint training for only to Philippine Marines and AFP troops, but also the Philippine Army, Air Force and Navy.

The US helicopter carrier USS Bonhomme Richard, escorted by two frigates, arrived in the first port on Friday carrying 2,500 American troops. The ship carries amphibious assault vehicles, light armored vehicles, helicopters and Harrier fighter jets.

The USS Olympia, a submarine, docked here on Thursday, but it was not clear if it will join the exercises. The US Embassy in a statement, said the exercises would "highlights the strong historic, commercial and military connections" between the US and the Philippines.

Exercise venues

The training venues are the Subic Bay International Airport here; Wet Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija; Marine Barracks Gregorio Lim in Tarlac; Caylin; Clare Valley in Tarlac; Naval Station Apolinario Jalandoni in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, and the Naval Education Training Command in San Antonio, Zambales.

"The conduct of Phibex 2013 perpetuates a long and lasting partnership founded firmly on the common heritage between freedom-loving nations committed to true service and the preservation of liberty and democracy," the Phibex statement said in a statement.

Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday – October 8, 2012
27th Week in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: Gal 1:6-12

I am surprised at how quickly you have abandoned God who called you according to the grace of Christ, and have gone to another gospel. Indeed, there is no other gospel, but some people who are creating confusion among you want to transform the Gospel of Christ upside down.

But even if we ourselves were giving you another gospel different from the one we preached to you, or if it were an angel from heaven, I would say: let God's curse be on him! As I have said I now say again: If anyone preaches the Gospel to you other than you received it, let that one, this one, be under damnation or (they God)! Do you think that I try to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I wouldn't be a servant of Christ.

For we remind you, brothers and sisters, that the Gospel we preached to you is not a human message, nor did I receive it from anyone. I was not taught it at first hand: I came to it as a revelation from Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Lk 10:25-37

A teacher of the Law came and began putting Jesus to the test. And he said, "Master, what shall I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Scriptures? How do you understand it?" The man answered, "It is written: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus replied, "What a good answer! Do this and you shall live." The man wanted to keep up appearances, so he replied, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus then said: "There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him and went off leaving him half dead.

"It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite saw the man and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, too, was going that way and when he came upon the man, he was moved with compassion. He went over to him and treated his wounds with oil and wine and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own mount and brought him to an inn where he took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, but he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him: 'Take care of him and whatever you spend on him, I will repay when I come back.'"

Jesus then asked, "Which of these three, do you think, made himself neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who had mercy on him." And Jesus said, "Go then and do the same."

Reflection

"Who is my neighbor?" Jesus boldly responded to fellow Jews; others give a somewhat wider definition; the Jews turned the question inside out. He did not answer the question, 'Who is my neighbor?' but a different question, 'Who shouldn't be a neighbor to?' The first question is about other people and how they are to be classified; the second question is about myself and how I should behave toward other people.

'Naughty owl, helpful boy, hide and seek' regale kids

need a job?

By Inquirer Read-Along Team

TO MARK Children's Month, stories about a naughty little owl, a helpful boy and a mischief child volunteer took center stage at Sacrifice's Read-Along session at the Ayala mall office in Makati City.

Actors Ella Guevara and JC Tuanco together read Grace Chong's "Nag-iipakong Mga Isda" (Trying Children), a story about a child who volunteers to look after a group of fish in a dynamic scene.

Newly trained storytellers Kera Danielle Segarra, Danielle Jimenez, Eliadee Gerald Jimenez, Gloria Ili Alvarez and Jaymee Monsion (Gloria Dinlayan read "Si Pilyo, Ang Bumagong Pilyo" (Pilyo, The Naughty Owl) by Valerie Montemayor, which is about a owl to dear learns the importance of obeying his parents.

Museum read

Sophia School principal Ann Abueva and teachers Betty Dendle and Lorna Darling read "Si Pilong Dengis ngo" (Pilong Who Loved to Hide) by Kristine Castro, about a boy who loves to play hide-and-seek.

Gervasia, 24, is a reading storyteller who has been part of Read-Along since 2005.

"I enjoy reliving back because I realize no longer is [a] fear that I am able to help children like myself appreciate the joys of reading. I always have fun during the storytelling sessions," said Gervasia, one of the winners in the storytelling contest search for children, "Gayumanin."

Tuanco, who was in the reality program "Survivor Philippines," says a storyteller should be clear in telling and animated to bring "cuteness and clay" before the session. The warm welcome he received from the children, he said, made him feel "a lot more relaxed."

The duo's storytelling was generous, and in local dialects from the young audience.

"It was really exciting. It was fun relating to young audiences, they were very responsive," said Tuanco, who has an upcoming show on GMA 7 this month.

Best of the group

Segarra's group hosted a dozen other participants in the Inquirer Read-Along 101 training seminar on storytelling held earlier in the day at the Ayala mall office. The seminar's culminating activity was Saturday afternoon's Read-Along session with nearly 100 kids from St. Anthony of Makati Montessori School and Volante Foundation in attendance.

"The seminar speakers shared a lot of clear and effective techniques," said Segarra, a volunteer teacher at Alternative Learning System at the Society of the Divine Word in Tagaytay City who is also the theater arts. "Even if the time was short, we had time to apply the different techniques taught to us."

Another seminar participant, teacher Jill Mirasol Garcia, described the seminar as "a refreshed routine."

"The most important thing is to not be shy and enjoy what you do. You have to always be confident and never impose on children what values they should be learning from the story," she said.

Amelia Flores, a participant from Couples for Christ (CFC) Foundation for Family and Life, said they were encouraged to join the seminar in hopes that their storytelling skills for their kids for Christ chapter.

"We were encouraged by [seminar budget officer] Joel de la Cruz to participate so we can be competent guides for the children during our activities," she said.

Celina Tolentino, also from CFC, said "Using traditional voice tone reading to children is not really as inspiring for them to learn a lot of new things. I will apply the techniques I learned here maybe to my grandchildren for them to appreciate reading well and to also enhance their imagination and creativity."

Isabela Louise Gamora, 12, said she enjoyed her first Read-Along session, adding that her favorite story "Si Wako, Ang Kawagang Pilyo," caught her the importance of always listening to one's parents. "Children should also read a lot of books in order to be informed," she added.

Most important lesson

For her schoolmate, 11-year-old Isabel de la Cruz, "the most important lesson I learned today is to always have faith in God and never lose hope."

Mike Bunes, principal of St. Anthony of Makati Montessori, said the program was good for the students. "It encourages them to use books and reference materials which would enable them to learn so many things about it."

Susana S. Magbitang, a teacher at St. Anthony, agreed. "The students carry on the values from the books that they've read," she said.

Saturday's session, hosted by Libre editor-in-chief Dino de la Vega, was held in cooperation with Couples for Christ, St. Anthony of Makati Montessori School, Volante Foundation and Mutual Benefits of GMA 7.

The next session, also to mark Children's Month as well as the International Day of the Girl, will be held on Oct. 13 at 10 a.m. at the Inquirer Libre Bookstore, Makati City Cathedral in Ilaya at INTRAMUROS 320. With reports from Kara Dubroa, Marielle Medina, Mary Beatrice Reyes and Schanie Quadalla, Inquirer Research

WHERE ARE ELLA AND JC? Guest readers actors Ella Guevara and JC Tuanco are surrounded by fans and storytellers at the Inquirer Read-Along. RICHARD ROSS

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PPCRV website hacked

[illegible] website of election watchdog Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), which is certainly not a government group, was not spared by hackers promoting the new cybercrime law.

PPCRV chair Henrietta de Villa, however, yesterday chose to see the incident as a "moment of grace."

Her website was hacked, which was a blessing in disguise because it gave us the opportunity to renew the design and set up systems that will [illegible] internet," De Villa told reporters over the weekend.

She said the site was hacked by "anonymous Philippines." But some group that claimed responsibility for the cyber attacks on government web sites in the last few days.

Jocelyn R. Uy

PAL hiring pilots, cabin crew

TO PROSPER for 63 consecutive, Philippine Airlines (PAL) is looking for more pilots and cabin crew.

Applicants for captain and second officers in the Boeing 737 must drive their own vehicle, register at their Airport Service Center, and their records and number of flying hours at the PAL Job Fair at Radisson Blu Hotel, Cebu City on Oct. 12-14.

For cabin crew applicants, eighteen is from 5 to 10 a.m. Processing of applications is until 3 p.m.

Applicants from central, northern and southern Luzon may go to the same venue.

Applicants should bring clearance and full-body photos and be information about PAL or also looking for in-flight Chinese interpreters. Applicants must be fluent in Mandarin and Hokkien.

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CEAP Statement on the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 (RA 10175)

"The challenge to our liberties comes frequently not from those who consciously seek to destroy our system of government, but from men of goodwill-good men who allow their proper concerns to blind them to the fact that what they propose to accomplish involves an impairment of liberty...

"What we must remember, however, is that **preservation of liberties does not depend on motives. A suppression of liberty has the same effect whether the suppressor be a policeman or an outlaw.** The only protection against misguided and ill-motivated abridgment of the infractions of the guarantees of liberty contained in our Constitution. ***Each surrender of liberty to the demands of the moment makes easier another larger surrender.*** The battle over the Bill of Rights is a never ending one."

[Called from PBM Employees Organization vs. PBM Co., Inc., 51 SCRA 189, 211, per Makasiar, J.]

We, the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), an organization of Catholic educational institutions, manifest our concern regarding provisions of Republic Act 10175 (a.k.a. the "Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012"). These violate our constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of expression and of speech; they willfully transgress our right to privacy.

We are wary that this law, while intending to combat criminal activities on the Internet, unlawfully extends the individual's right to free speech. We are disturbed that this law, while hoping to respond quickly to offenses committed "online", gives blanket authority to the Executive Arm to restrict or control data on the Internet.

We remember it was only a quarter of a century ago that the fundamental rights of our people were trampled by a dictatorial regime. We are apprehensive that the Declaration of Policy contained in Section 2 as well as Sec. 4 sub-paragraph c-4 (Libel), Sec. 7 (Liability under Other Laws), Sec. 12 (Real-time Collection of Traffic Data), Sec. 19 (Restricting or Blocking Access to Computer Data), in RA 10175 pave the way for another era of suppression of liberties by the State.

We urge our lawmakers to heed the words of His Holiness Pope John Paul II in his address of February 17, 1981 to the President and the nation during his Philippine visit when he stressed: *"Even in exceptional situations that may at times arise, one can never justify any violation of the fundamental dignity of the human person or of the basic rights that safeguard this dignity. Legitimate concern for the security of a nation, as demanded by the common good, could lead to the temptation of subjugating to the State the human being and his or her dignity and rights. Any apparent conflict between the exigencies of security and of the citizens' basic rights must be resolved according to the fundamental principle --upheld always by the Church-- that social organization exists only for the service of man and for the protection of his dignity, and that it cannot claim to serve the common good when human rights are not safeguarded."*

We call for the immediate repeal or amendment of these provisions in RA 10175.

CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
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MVP thrust tests policy on multimedia ownership

From page A1

It also exposed the dynamics of the development of a super elite, run by headed by Pangilinan.

According to information available to the public, the talks fell through because of disagreements over the mode of payment and regulatory "risk taking" issues (Manny only to insiders).

Whatever the reasons behind the failed talks, what seems clear is that the predatory ambitions of Pangilinan have suffered a crippling setback that may have halted the momentum of his inorganic drive to control a broad range of companies in the economy before truly conscious for consummation of wealth among a few oligarchs.

This article does not aspire into estate of the Indian-Hong Kong this effort to investigate to business (especially). Rather, it focuses on the impact of this development on the media and the interest of news filtered by media to the public.

To begin with, it has to be emphasized that the group of companies headed by Pangilinan has octopus-like tentacles that have a grip on many Philippine businesses. Its reach is unmatched by big name companies such as those owned by the Lopezes, the Ayala-Zobels, the tuipons of the giant shopping malls, Lucio Tan of Philippine Airlines and Philippine National Bank/Allied Bank, and Edmundo "Danding" Cojuangco of San Miguel Corp.

Media independence

Awful as the media are affected by takeovers, it should be of concern to the public to know how independent media are, or how vulnerable they are to takeover bids from business groups just from the government.

Pangilinan saw the value of this strategic platform in contracting negotiations to allow Media-Quest Holdings Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, to acquire GMA 7.

After the talks fell through, Pangilinan said he did not expect the failure to adversely affect the PLDT group's "strategy of evolving from a traditional telecommunication company into a multimedia service company."

The collapse thwarted this objective.

But this strategy of targeting media control drivers/Pangilinan's expansion outlook, it is said: "The PLDT group's commitment to believe that owning, producing and providing content across multiple platforms is an important component of its platform for growth and as such intends to pursue its media strategy by building [their] [illegible] investments in TV1, the country's third largest free-to-air television network audience share, and Cignal TV, the leading provided of direct-to-home satellite services."

After the collapse of the negotiations, it is now time for the stiff Ocris, competing head-to-head with the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN. Had the takeover bid succeeded, a monopoly situation would nevertheless not develop since GMA 7 would still be facing competition from ABS-CBN. But the ownership of GMA 7 would shift from the Gozon and Duavit families to Pangilinan's group of companies.

Foothold

Although the Pangilinan group's bumping career has apparently been derailed, he has already established a foothold in mainstream media. Pangilinan earlier acquired TV5 from deposed Broadcasting Co. (ABC) and planned to merge it with GMA 7.

He used MediaQuest Holdings as the vehicle in the bid to acquire GMA 7. According to Doris Dumlao, business reporter of the Inquirer, the move to acquire GMA 7 is seen as giving Pangilinan's group a leading market position in the broadcast industry.

Pangilinan is also managing director of PLDT's controlling stockholder, the Hong Kong-based Hal Pacific Co. Ltd.

In 2009, according to a series of reports in the Inquirer, the Pangilinan conglomerate established its foothold in three mainstream print media—Philippine Star, Business-World and the Inquirer—into which MediaQuest bought minority shares.

The Inquirer and the Star together have a combined circulation that holds a commanding majority in readership nationwide. No business group in the Philippines has ever acquired such holdings as the PLDT group through MediaQuest in the democratic regime after the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution.

Poison pill

Among the danger to press freedom posed by business ownership or ownership of a newspaper, outside is the [illegible]/world sold reporters that the [illegible] publisher and founder of the paper, Raul Locsin, had put in place a "poison pill" to prevent any hostile takeover of the company.

The pill is the 75 percent ownership of the company by the Business/World Employees Retirement Fund. This is how Joaquin Locsin was of the independence of his paper. Under a trust agreement, the acquiring party needs to get the approval of all regular employees to accept the purchase offer. Due diligence may break the deal.

According to an Inquirer report, MediaQuest also holds controlling interest in Nation-al Broadcasting Corp., which operates a network of radio stations, and a minority in Central CATV, a cable TV company trailing under the name of Sky Cable.

The unbundling of Pangilinan's group in the print media runs a policy set by then President Fidel Ramos banning any media organization from multimedia ownership to prevent monopoly by media giants.

There is no say concerns of radio-TV stations against publish newspapers. (To be continued.)

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Chief gov't prosecutor in massacre case replaced

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE HEAD of the government prosecution team in the Maguindanao massacre case has again been replaced after former chief Assistant Regional Prosecutor Nicolas Medalla failed to be transferred back to Zamboanga City.

Taguig City Prosecutor Aniceto Mandhar took over his post. Medalla announced yesterday.

Medalla said he asked for the transfer because he wanted to be with his family and there were pressing [illegible] cases to be prosecuted in Zamboanga, [illegible] where the regional prosecutor is to retire on Oct. 22.

"The court's affair the Maguindanao massacre case," Medalla said. "What's important is the evidence is intact and the witnesses are there. There will be some adjustment but [illegible] is overseen prosecutor."

This is the second time for the head of the prosecution panel to be replaced. In March last year, Medalla took over as head of the panel after Justice Secretary Leila de Lima replaced most of the government prosecutors due to squabbles in the prosecution team.

Private prosecutor Harry Roque Jr. said the departure of Medalla would not have a negative effect to the prosecution of the case.

He said Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes has allowed the testimony of three vital government witnesses despite vehement opposition from the defense while the Department of Justice has formally charged the accused for the death of the 58th victim, photojournalist Reynaldo Momay.

"With the filing of the complaint for the 58th victim, we will present as witnesses the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) team that investigated [Momay's] case. The testimonies of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, who was then the head of the CHR," Roque said.

He said the prosecution team would also move to protect some of the information filed in court for Momay's case because among those charged were respondents who have signified their intent to turn state witness, and are now under the care of the government's witness protection program.

Terms, details of draft peace agreement

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FRAMEWORK agreement covering the Bangsamoro territory appears to envision a significantly wider area than the one authorized by its predecessor, a memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain (MOA-AD), had the structural changes it seeks to institute will be felt by many predominantly Muslim provinces, Interior Secretary Mar Roxas said yesterday.

Roxas, in a session in 2008, vehemently opposed the MOA-AD pushed by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which included 710 Muslim majority areas after a second vote of 1,439 villages known as "special interest core areas."

Section 3 of the new "framework agreement on the Bangsamoro" says the core territory of Bangsamoro will be composed of:

- The present geographical area of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM);
- The municipalities of Baloi, Munai, Nunungan, Pantar, Tagoloan and Tangkal in the province of Lanao del Norte; and all other barangays in the municipalities of Kabacan, Carmen, Aleosan, Pigkawayan, Pikit and Midsayap that voted for inclusion in the ARMM during the 2001 plebiscite.
- The cities of Cotabato and Isabela.
- All other contiguous areas where there is a resolution of the local government in a petition of at least 10 percent of the qualified voters in the area asking for their inclusion at least two months before the conduct of the ratification of the Bangsamoro basic law and the process of delimitation of the Bangsamoro.

Transparent

In an interview with the lawmen, Roxas elaborated on the differences between the new agreement and the old MOA-AD, which was struck down by the Supreme Court for being unconstitutional.

"First, this [process] is transparent. Second, this will pass through Congress—both in the House and the Senate. And after the, the people will be asked through a plebiscite," Roxas said.

"This will not be compulsory, and it is aligned with the Peace don't-s principle that 'no one the boss.' The people will be the boss. It is decide through a plebiscite," he said.

Roxas stayed with the Peace dors in Malacañang until 1 a.m. yesterday to finalize the draft accord.

He expected the agreement to hold no "substantive structural changes" with the effects of this process to be felt in governance to come.

He noted that the 40-year secondent struggle had bred consumer poverty and underdevelopment of the seven-region area.

"This is huge, historic. This is not just temporary, but grassroots," Roxas said, echoing the President's desire to have the same social services, livelihood, tourism and health services available to the citizenry to be enjoyed as well by residents of impoverished provinces in Mindanao.

The new agreement pushed the Bangsamoro Autonomy Treaty envisioned by the MOA-AD in favor of the "Non-Autonomous Political Entity (NPE)," to operate the ARMM after the transition period in 2016.

Minimal gov't

The two sides agreed to have a "minimal form" of governance for Bangsamoro, necessitating possible amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

The 15-page agreement posted on the Official Gazette (http://www.gov.ph/2012/10/07/the-2012-framework-agreement-on-the-bangsamoro/) touched this subject.

Section 7 (Transition and implementation) devoted to part of a transitional provision for the creation of a 15-member Transition Commission "to work on proposals to amend the Philippine Constitution for the purpose of accommodating and enabling in the resolution of the Bangsamoro Question whenever necessary without derogating from any prior peace agreements."

The Bangsamoro electoral system will allow "democratic participation, ensure accountability of public officers primarily to their constituents and encourage formation of genuinely principled political parties."

The electoral system will be written into the Bangsamoro basic law, which will be implemented through legislation enacted by the Bangsamoro government and coordinated with national laws.

The agreement recognizes the "Bangsamoro identity," Section 1 of the agreement says.

Bangsamoro people

The same section identifies the Bangsamoro people.

"Those who at the time of conquest and colonization were considered natives or original inhabitants of Mindanao and the Islamic archipelago and its adjacent islands, including Palawan, and their descendants whether of mixed or of full blood shall have the right to identify themselves as Bangsamoro by birth or by law or description," it says, adding that "spouses and their descendants are classified as Bangsamoro."

Power-sharing

"The freedom of choice of other indigenous peoples shall be respected," it says.

The agreement also calls for a basis law for the new Shari'ah justice system to be formulated by the "Bangsamoro people" and ratified in a plebiscite.

It speaks of "structural powers" for the national government; "subsidiary powers" for the Bangsamoro government; and "concurrent powers" by both, but clearly with the national one in the utmost on power-sharing.

Shariah justice

It recognizes the supremacy of the Shariah justice system only in Muslims, but the customary laws and traditions of indigenous peoples still be respected.

The other salient features of the agreement are revenue, generation, wealth-sharing arrangements and fiscal autonomy; basic rights enshrined and protected; normalization and implementation; and normalization, which covers human security, police force, graduated decommissioning of MILF forces, monitoring teams, control of firearms and illegal possession of private arms.

P-Noy hails peace deal; Bangsamoro to replace ARMM setup

From page A1

ing land, selling products, mastering work systems and opening doorways of opportunity for other citizens," he said.

The agreement clears the way for the establishment of a new autonomous political entity to be called Bangsamoro, which will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The establishment of Bangsamoro will follow the constitutional and legal processes to "ensure that the Philippines remains our united and one people, under the rule of one democratic and sovereign nation with the common good," Mr. Aquino said.

Explaining the content of the negotiations between the government and the MILF for the creation of Bangsamoro, Mr. Aquino said: "The MOA[-AD] yielded experiment. Most of the people continue to feel alienated by the system, and those who feel that there is no way out will continue to articulate their grievances through the barrel of a gun. We cannot change that without structural reform."

Mr. Aquino stressed: "And now we have helped to implement that tools to correct these problems. It defines our parameters and our objectives, and it provides for the integrity and sovereignty of our nation."

Signing in Manila

The agreement came at the conclusion on Saturday of the latest round of negotiations between the government and the MILF panel panels in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which brokered the talks.

The breakthrough came after 15 exploratory meetings in 21 months under the Aquino administration. It was the 32nd round since the talks resumed in Kuala Lumpur in 2001.

The two panels will sign the agreement in Malacañang on Oct. 15 in the presence of the President and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tunak, according to President Aquino's Peace Process Tweeter/Jaimee Dyer.

The final negotiators, Mohagher Iqbal for the government and Mohagher Iqbal for the MILF, will sign the agreement.

Dolor said the text of the agreement would be published in newspapers and posted on the Official Gazette (http://www.gov.ph) and the website of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

Bangsamoro will encompass a territory much smaller than the one envisioned through the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that the Supreme Court struck down in unconstitutional in 2008.

According to Dolor, Bangsamoro will cover the five provinces in the ARMM, plus six municipalities in Lanao del Norte, several villages in six cities in North Cotabato, Cotabato City, and Isabela City in Basilan.

Bangsamoro will be the fifth attempt at autonomy as a strategy for dealing with the aspirations of the Moros to handle their own affairs. But this is the third time that an autonomous region has been signed upon through negotiations.

The two other accords were the 1976 Tripoli Agreement and the 1996 Final Agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

The ARMM and the two regional autonomous governments created during the Marcos era were ineffectual initiatives of the government.

The agreement will serve as the basis for a law that Congress will enact after sometime to establish the Bangsamoro.

Interior Secretary Mar Roxas said the approval of the Bangsamoro law would be through plebiscite.

"This will not be an imposition by the national government on the people of Mindanao," Roxas said. "In other words, a plebiscite will be held."

MILF happy

The MILF hailed the breakthrough as the "beginning of peace."

"We are happy and we thank the President for this," Aquino Peace Process Secretary Deles said in a statement after Ghazali Jaafar in saying from his base in Mindanao.

While Mr. Aquino did not say when the final peace pact would be achieved, Jaafar said the two sides were aiming for the mark the of 16 of when the President's term ends.

Both Mr. Aquino and Jaafar pointed to major obstacles that still needed to be overcome before a final peace agreement could be achieved.

Major issues

The agreement spells out the general principles on major issues, including the extent of power, revenues and territory of the proposed Bangsamoro.

Mr. Aquino sought to assure the nation that the national government would continue to exercise "exclusive power of defense and security, foreign policy, monetary policy and economic affairs, including taxation" over the new autonomous region.

But the "Filipinos of Bangsamoro" would get an equitable share of taxes, revenues and the funds of national parliament, Mr. Aquino said.

"They will enjoy equal protection of laws and access to impartial justice," the President said.

Acknowledgments

Mr. Aquino thanked MILF chair Murad Ebrahim and the MILF Central Committee for "their unwavering effort" in the negotiations, the members of the MILF negotiating panel led by Iqbal, and the government of Malaysia, "who stood as facilitators as we realized our aspirations for peace."

The President thanked in particular Prime Minister Razak whose commitment, he said, "sustained this fragile, considerable political and personal risk."

Mr. Aquino also acknowledged the efforts of the international community in advancing the peace process.

He cautioned, however, that "the work does not end here."

"There are still details both sides must flesh out," he said.

The preliminary agreement marks the most significant progress in years of negotiations with the 12,000-strong MILF on ending an uprising that has left more than 150,000 people dead and held back development in the south.

Transition

Western governments have long traveled that ethnic strongholds could become breeding grounds for Islamic affiliated terrorists.

The accord calls for the establishment of a "Transitional Commission" that will discuss out the details of the preliminary agreement and draft a law creating Bangsamoro in about two years.

The MILF would undertake a "graduated program" to decommission its armed guerrilla units "so that they are put beyond use," the agreement said, without specifying a timetable.

"It's been a long journey and this is an important milestone in our search for lasting peace," Dolor said.

The draft agreement, she said, "shows a very clear map toward the end point of a political settlement."

The agreement will be built upon an existing autonomous territory, among the country's poorest and most violence, which includes more than 4 million people living in five provinces, two cities, 113 towns and 2,409 villages.

Final accord

The MILF had earlier dropped a demand for a separate Moro state and announced reversion.

MILF chief negotiator Iqbal said in an earlier interview with The Associated Press that the government's only short-term goal could a final peace accord is concluded.

He added that insurgents would form a political party and run in democratic elections to get a chance at leading the autonomous region for which they have been fighting.

Despite the new accord, chief government negotiator Leonen called for "guarded optimism" during last week's negotiations in Kuala Lumpur, saying both sides still have the enormous task of finishing out details.

Challenges

And the challenges are many.

In 2008, the planned signing of a preliminary pact for a Moro homeland was scuttled when opponents went to the Supreme Court, which declared the agreement unconstitutional.

Fighting erupted when Moro rebel commanders attacked Christian communities and an ensuing military offensive killed more than 300 people and displaced about 750,000 villagers before a ceasefire ended the violence.

One of the hardline rebel commanders, Ahmad Umar Kato, broke off from the MILF in 2010 and formed a new group, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), opposed to the talks.

Kato's forces launched attacks on several army camps and outposts in August, prompting another army offensive that killed more than 50 fighters of the BIFF, along with others.

MNLF

The MILF itself broke away in the 1980s from the MNLF which signed a 1996 autonomy deal with the government. That peace accord did not lead to the group's disarmament and many of the rebels have simply laid low in the south, still demanding that the government fulfill its commitments, including jobs, security and economic development.

Some former guerrillas also formed a small but brutal al-Qaeda-linked group called the Abu Sayyaf, which specializes in bombings, extreme kidnappings and beheadings until US-backed Philippine military offensives routed many of the bandits.

They are mostly based in the southern provinces of Sulu and Basilan, where about 400 hostages are held.—Report from Ryan D. Almazora, Inquirer Mindanao; AP and AFP

Lawmakers laud peace framework

From page A1

Mindanao that has killed more than 150,000 people.

"That could be a breakthrough on the government initiative to stabilize the situation in the Muslim community. That is a big contribution to the stability of the internal security of the republic of the Philippines," Lorenzo said in an interview with the Inquirer.

Fixing all

Lorenzo said Congress, which would write the law that would establish Bangsamoro, would have to see to it that the interests of both the government and the MILF were accommodated.

It should also ensure that all legal grounds are covered, he added.

Senators welcomed the agreement. The Senate peace and unification committee chair, Teofisto Guingona III, called it "a vital step forward for our efforts to end decades of armed conflict and insurgency in Mindanao."

Sen. Franklin Drilon said the agreement would "open doors of opportunities for much-needed livelihood and socioeconomic programs in the entire Mindanao."

Sen. Teofisto Guingona said that while details of the agreement were being threshed out all affected parties should participate in the formulation of the final deal to ensure that the Bangsamoro people's right to self-determination would remain within national sovereignty.

The military said it supported the preliminary peace agreement.

In a statement, Gil. Arnaldo Bayan Jr., spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), described the framework agreement as a "significant milestone in our pursuit of a just and lasting peace for our nation."

"The AFP fully adheres to the primacy of the peace process as we condition to support all the peace programs and endorsements of the government," Bayan said.

"We look forward to the sealing of the final peace agreement very soon, which will eventually bring renewed peace in Mindanao," he added.

The chief of the Philippine National Police, Director General Nicanor Bartolome, said preserving the peace part was "worth giving..."

From page A1

serious attention."

"We've always been looking for genuine peace in Mindanao and this is one good opportunity to discuss things out and be able to forge an agreement for a lasting peace," Bartolome said.

Leong said the framework agreement may not necessarily establish an entirely new political entity since the Constitution recognizes autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao.

"If we're going to abrogate the existing autonomy, that might be perceived as unconstitutional because the existence of an autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao is mandated by a constitutional provision. So maybe this can be discussed, the legal implications can be discussed," Leong said.

In Mindanao, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), a breakaway group from the MILF, said it could not support the agreement.

"We are applying a wait-and-see stance," said Abu Misri Mama, BIFF spokesperson.

"Anything that is good for the Bangsamoro, we will support, but if that fails we will maintain our stance and that is main problems for Mindanao," Mama told the Inquirer by phone.

"If it succeeds, does we will support and recognize it," Mama said.

Rudy Jellome, vice president for Mindanao of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said the business community in Mindanao, especially in Muslim Mindanao, welcomed the framework agreement.

"It will surely improve the business climate and then the quality of life of all Mindanaoans," Jellome said.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu also welcomed the agreement.

"It provides and acceptable peace pact between the government and the MILF will definitely usher in peace and sustainable development in Mindanao," he said.

The United States and the Japanese government welcomed the framework agreement.

"We welcome the announcement by the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that the two sides have finalized a framework (peace agreement," US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas said in a statement.

Thomas said he hoped the agreement, once signed, would lead to "greater peace and economic prosperity in Mindanao."

"The framework agreement is an important first step toward the realization of the final agreement concerning the Mindanao peace process and Japan sincerely pays its respects to both the governments of the Philippines and the MILF for their persistent negotiation efforts and to the government of Malaysia for its contribution as the facilitator," the Japanese Embassy said.

Supporters

Both Japan and the United States supported the peace process, funding development projects on, amongst peace negotiations and help develop Mindanao.

While much work remains, successful implementation of this agreement would improve security, stability and development for the people of Mindanao. We fully support the ongoing peace process and hope the parties can continue to avoid violence as they work toward a final solution that will last for generations and benefit all the people of the Philippines," Thomas said. With reports from Cathy Yamsuan, Marlon Ramos, Jerome Aning and Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

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300 pets attend Kabang's 'despedida'

From page A1

Kabang is leaving for the United States today for "a much-needed" facial reconstruction surgery.

"It was both a despedida and a blessing for Kabang. Tomorrow a motorcade will send him off to the airport," Dr. Van Joe Ong, executive director of the welfare coalition, told the Inquirer.

Ong said it was Filipino tradition to see someone setting off on a voyage. "In Kabang's case, we are praying for her safe journey and her successful operation and recovery in the US," he said.

Like a VIP

Kabang's special day coincided with the observance of World Animal Day and World Rabies Day, an annual event where the Manila City government brought its Veterinary Services Office fleet up activities for pets and pet lovers.

Like a true VIP, Kabang left immediately after the 7 a.m. Mass officiated by a priest and attended by the 300 pets and their owners.

Kabang's veterinarians said the tumor, dog could not stay longer at the pets because she might catch various illnesses. The dog had been in the city for a month in a shelter set beside one of the Manila veterinary clinic to boost her immune system before her flight to America.

Vivian Manalastas, head of Makati's veterinary office, said her office organized Sunday's event because "we recognize the heroic acts of pets like Kabang, which displayed loyalty to her masters when she saved their lives."

Kabang's BFF

"Barkley," also a dog and the veterinary office's official mascot for the animal welfare campaign, graced the event.

"Barkley accompanied Kabang, his BFF (Best Friend Forever)," Manalastas said in jest.

Kabang — touted as the Philippines' first NDC — became a popular effigy. The media published the story of how she saved two girls from being hit by a motorcycle in Zamboanga City in December last year.

In saving the two girls, Kabang suffered injuries that disfigured her face.

Rachel Hauck is a faithful dog in Japan that commuted everyday for 9 months at a train station every day for some years. And if the master had already died.

Team Kabang

Since the December accident, a group of veterinarians and animal welfare advocates called Team Kabang has been supporting the Filipino dog.

The group asked for donations for her chronic dog's facial surgery at Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital in the University of California Davis.

Ong said the special surgery, which requires expertise and equipment not available in the Philippines, would close the wound of Kabang and even prolong her life.

"Kabang will be treated by foreign veterinarians. Our wonderful veterinarians, Dr. Annie Lui and Dr. Edgardo Gomez, will observe the medical procedures so that in the future, the surgery can also be done here," Ong said.

Overwhelming support

He said public support for Kabang had been overwhelming. Donations kept pouring in.

"The donations have exceeded both our target and the surgical cost, which is $30,000," they said, adding that the excess amount would be used for the dog's recovery and adaptation.

Kabang's travel and that of the accompanying veterinarians to the United States will be shouldered by Philippine Airlines.

The team helping Kabang also tracks donations by Rudy Bonggat, Kabang's master, as he could go with his dog to the United States. Rudy has said Bonggat used his cash to raise the donation papers. His birth certificate, which they needed to ensure their passports and US visas.

Fighting spirit

In an earlier interview, the veterinarians said that months after the accident, Kabang showed "fierce" fighting spirit.

"For a pet that has gone through so much, he has no fear and anger," Lorenzo said.

Kabang's story has boggled the heartstrings of animal lovers in and out of the Philippines. "If Japan has Hachiko, we have Kabang," said Mona Dominguez, editorial affairs coordinator of the Animal Welfare Coalition.

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Date and Time of Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids	:	29 October 2012, 9:00 AM
Cost of Bid Documents	:	Php 50,000.00

2 DAPA PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, SIARGAO ISLAND, SURIGAO DEL NORTE

Approved Budget for the Contract	:	Php 9,882,000.00
Issuance of Bid Documents	:	8 October 2012 - 30 October 2012
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	:	17 October 2012, 2:00 PM
Date and Time of Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids	:	30 October 2012, 9:00 AM
Cost of Bid Documents	:	Php 10,000.00

3 PLARIDEL-PULILAN PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, BULACAN

Approved Budget for the Contract	:	Php 421,221.63
Issuance of Bid Documents	:	8 October 2012 - 30 October 2012
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	:	17 October 2012, 2:00 PM
Date and Time of Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids	:	30 October 2012, 9:00 AM
Cost of Bid Documents	:	Php 10,000.00

4 BANSUD PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, MINDORO ORIENTAL

Approved Budget for the Contract	:	Php 2,876,589.15
Issuance of Bid Documents	:	8 October 2012 - 30 October 2012
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	:	17 October 2012, 2:00 PM
Date and Time of Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids	:	30 October 2012, 10:00 AM
Cost of Bid Documents	:	Php 3,000.00

5 CANTUPA PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, NEGROS ORIENTAL

Approved Budget for the Contract	:	Php 1,099,949.77
Issuance of Bid Documents	:	8 October 2012 - 30 October 2012
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	:	17 October 2012, 2:00 PM
Date and Time of Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids	:	30 October 2012, 10:00 AM
Cost of Bid Documents	:	Php 3,000.00

- Interested bidders may obtain the Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable amount indicated above only to the DOTC Cashier. They may also inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain additional information from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, Unit 113, 11th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Mandaluyong City or may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGeps) and website of the DOTC (www.dotc.gov.ph). Interested bidder shall pay the fee for the Bidding Documents no later than the submission of their bids.
- Bidding is open to all interested bidders subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184 and the Bidding Documents.
- The Bids and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on the date and time indicated above in the DOTC Conference Room, 10th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Mandaluyong City which shall be open to all interested parties.
- The BAC reserves its responsibility to the interest of the government and thereby holds the right to reject any or all bids.

For further information, please refer to:

Asst. Sec. Catherine Jennifer P. Gonzales
Overall Head, BAC Secretariat
Address: **Unit 113, 11th Flr., Columbia Tower, Ortigas Ave., 1555 Mandaluyong City , Philippines**
Tel Nos.: (+632) 654-7720
(+632) 727-7960 loc 102
Facsimile No.: (+632) 654-7719
E-mail Address: **bac-sec@dotc.gov.ph**
Website: **www.dotc.gov.ph**

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Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor: Tony Bengcolo

5.6-magnitude tremor rocks Ilocos Norte

LAOAG CITY—A magnitude-5.6 earthquake struck the northern tip of Ilocos Norte on Sunday morning, sending residents of this capital city out of their homes due to ground shaking.

No earthquake-related damage or casualty was reported but the tremor, which hit at 11:14 a.m., was worrying first. Laoag residents rushed out of their homes for fear of being hit by falling objects.

Residents said the ground shaking lasted for about a minute.

A bulletin issued by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) showed that the quake's epicenter was 39 kilometers northeast of Pagudpud town, some 53 km from here.

It was felt at intensity 5 in Sarrat town; intensity 4 in Batac City to Ilocos Norte, Baguio and Cervantes, Ilocos Sur; intensity 3 in Tuguegarao City in Cagayan, and intensity 2 in Tarlac to Ilocos Sur and Baguio City. Cristina Arnaldo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

SBMA tourism complex plan derailed

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The planned conversion of the idle Subic Bay International Airport (SBIA) into a tourism complex will not push through due to plans of the Department of National Defense (DND) to use the area as a military base, a top official of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) said.

THE IDLE Subic Bay International Airport will be used as a military base, derailing an SBMA plan to convert the area into a tourism complex.

SBMA Chair Roberto Garcia said his vision to convert the 280-hectare SBIA into a family-oriented, integrated, international tourist destination like Sentosa Island in Singapore had been derailed because the DND wants to use the airport with its counterpart in the United States military.

"The DND wants to move the Philippine Air Force (PAF) base from Basa Air Flieldbalacan, Pampanga) to SBIA. If so, then the airport renovation cannot push through," he said.

The Basa Air Base hosts the PAF's Air Defense Wing and the 710th Air Engineering Wing.

The DND's plan to use SBIA came even as Garcia had pinned his hopes on using the airport to improve the Filipino's real standards of their debt-ridden free port. Its, however, said the schedule for the PAF's transfer here has yet to be finalized.

When asked if the PAF's use of SBIA is temporary, Garcia said: "If there is transfer, it will most likely be permanent."

A Philippine Information Agency (PIA) report confirmed the inevitability of the transfer as SBIA is now "being eyed [by the DND] as a forward base for the joint operations of the PAF and the US Air Force Pacific alliance to maximize regional balance in light of territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea."

Garcia, in an earlier interview, said the plan to convert SBIA was one of the "out of the box" solutions to attract more investments to Subic and increase its revenue stream.

The SBIA land is a prime piece of real estate and was formerly the Cubi Point Air Station (Dadbert Field) of the US Navy.

SBMA now hosts to casino giant Genting Group Berhad's (Resorts) and, as of 2008, urban city company-to-located to China.

But Garcia described the airport as a "sunk drain" for SBMA.

He said the airport complex has been underutilized, causing its income to drop from P233.2 million in 2005 to P36.6 million in 2011 and incurring, after debt servicing, an average loss of P180 million since 2010.

"It's nice to have an airport, but Subic is going bankrupt. That's a major issue, but it's not being used," he said.

The conversion plan consists of building convention centers, business process outsourcing parks, a science and technology center, casinos, theme parks, a golf course and luxury villas.

Earlier, former Sen. Richard Gordon scored Garcia's plan of converting the airport due to its importance in turning Subic into a major port.

Gordon, a former SBMA chair, said it took $40 million to rebuild and modernize SBIA.

"The airport is vital in Subic if the government wants to transform [the free port] into another thing [being or Singapore]," he said. Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon

Coast Guard wants review of Boracay safety measures

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—The Coast Guard has recommended a review of safety measures in water activities on Boracay Island after five tourists died in two separate accidents on Wednesday.

Commodore Alfredo Viuhez, Western Visayas Coast Guard commander, said they would recommend to the local government unit of Malay, boat operators and other concerned parties and agencies to review guidelines on swimming and boat activities to ensure the safety of visitors.

"We will meet with all the concerned agencies and parties if there is a need to improve or add safety measures," Viuhez told the Inquirer.

The number of fatalities due to accidents in a single day was among the highest in recent years on the world-famous resort.

Two tourists drowned and four others were rescued around 8:30 a.m. near the beach front in Barangay Balabag after they were swept by huge waves and strong winds, according to a report of the Coast Guard station in Caticlan, Malay.

Five students of the Aurelians University Oboig campus were swimming in front of the La Carmela resort when they were carried to deeper waters.

A tourist, Debbi Pedroza, 28, tried to rescue the students but drowned. Two of the students also died—Gino Santos, 20, and Mathew Tantiso, 21.

Three rescued students were identified as Princess Ramos, 19; Jayson Apostol, 21, and Nikka Joy Miranda, 19.

The students were part of a group of 170 hotel and restaurant management students who were on an educational tour on the island, said Chief Master sa Arco Serafin Tirgan of the Coast Guard Caticlan station.

Around 2:30 p.m., a motorboat with 25 passengers, including 20 Taiwanese tourists, a Filipino guide and five crew members, capsized between Barangay Manoc-Manoc and Crocodile Island.

The motor launch Kevin 2 had just left the Tambisaan on port for an island hopping tour when it was hit by a squall and capsized around 300 meters from the shoreline, said Tirgan.

All the passengers were wearing life jackets but three Taiwanese nationals died after they were believed to have suffocated while under the capsized boat.

The fatalities were identified as Lee Yu Mei, 71; Chang Hi Ling, 49, and 3-year-old Chen Jia Cheng.

The Malay local government convened a meeting of its municipal disaster risk reduction and management council on Thursday to investigate the incidents and discuss possible measures, said Godofredo Inductos, executive assistant of Malay Mayor Abby Sy.

Inductos said that at the time of the drowning of the two students, swimming was prohibited because of bad weather.

He said they will investigate why lifeguards assigned in the area were not able to stop the students from swimming and respond immediately to the incident.

There are 16 lifeguards for the whole 1,032-hectare island, which has a 4-kilometer beach on the western side alone. "We will study the possibility of adding lifeguards," Inductos said.

Boracay was named the world's top island destination by the prestigious Travel and Leisure Magazine, solidifying its fame as having one of the best beaches in the world because of its white powdery sand and crystal clear waters.

Record tourist arrivals in Boracay have been consistently for the past several years, from 440,559 in 2000, 779,666 in 2004 to 908,873 last year. Tourism revenues also increased from P11.9 billion in 2005, P14.3 billion in 2010 to P16.7 billion last year.

Tourist arrivals are expected to hit the million mark this year.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Saging Grace

NEWLY APPOINTED Election Commissioner Grace Padaca must feel confused, even threatened, from the flurry of criticism she has received in the last several days. Her use of President Aquino's "personal funds" to pay for bail—P30,000 for a graft charge and P60,000 for a malversation charge—has thrust her into the center of a gathering political storm, one which threatens to undermine her reputation so that rare choices: a politician of integrity.

EDITORIAL

She must be wondering when she did wrong. She has been steadfast in her campaign against corruption; she has been tireless in her championing of good governance; she has not changed political allegiances since the assisted politics; more to the point, she has not wavered in her fight against the Dy dynasty in Isabela province.

When she heard about the twin charges of corruption and malversation of funds being prepared against her by a surrogate of the Dy family, she had laughed with relief three gubernatorial elections, she thought (rightly in her view) that the cases were politically motivated. When the charges were filed, she decided (rightly in the eyes of many) to protest the manifest injustice by refusing to post bail. When President Aquino, an ally of long standing, offered to put up the money for her bail (let May, she felt (understandably) vindicated. And when Justice Secretary Raul Bonoan, president-no-leave of the Liberal Party, she belongs to, accompanied her when she finally posted bail last Thursday, she looked serene.

She said: *'Hindi lang po 'yung halaga ng pera ang importante dun (what's important is not the money alone). Ang importante ay ang kalayaan ko (my freedom is at stake). Kung kailangan ko (If necessary) May, ay nandito at nag-aantabay (I am here waiting) para sa akin (for me) na makiusap (to plead) sa walang hiyang (to the shameless) sa mamamayan.'* (It's not just the amount of money that is important [in posting bail] but the significance of someone like Noynoy [President Aquino], someone like Mar [Roxas], [standing] here [by me] and believing that I am not corrupt and did not steal anything from the people.)

She was believe she is not corrupt and did right by her provincemates when she awarded the P25 million provincial hybrid rice project that is the subject of the two charges. But something happened between May, when President Aquino first offered to post bail for her, and last week, when she brought the President's money to the courtroom, in Bonoan' company. She had been appointed to the Commission on Elections.

The appointment itself is not without controversy. Anyone who ran in the previous election cannot be appointed to the election agency, while Malacañang interprets the "previous" election to mean the October 2010 barangay elections, others suppose that the real milestone is the May 2010 national elections, in which Padaca was a candidate. The fact that the former governor is facing criminal charges—even if Padaca and her allies and supporters, the President among them, think these are only a form of political harassment—is also not without moment.

But it is the presumed independence of an election commissioner that is the source and measure of the growing controversy. Many people will ask: How can Padaca be an effective member of the Comelec, if she is perceived as partisan? If she and President Aquino's own money to bail herself out, surely she will suck the Liberal Party's way?

Here's the first-of-two truths we suggest the Magnayan awardee take to heart: Even if she had not accepted the President's offer, she would have been criticized as a politician-appointee anyway; she is the first politician appointed to the Comelec since Gloria Arroyo named Benjamin Abalos. That in itself is not a disqualification, as in the case of the Supreme Court, appointed politicians can rise above politics. In fact, considering her records with election habits, Padaca can be an effective advocate of election reform within the Comelec. But her reputation from here on will depend on her performance.

And the second? Good intentions are not enough. Her appointment to the Comelec changed her relationship with the President, Roxas and other close allies. Nothing suggests that her good intentions, her ambitions for good governance have changed; but the context is now completely different. She should put her trust in a government of laws—not of well-meaning, deep-pocketed gentlemen.

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QC gov't not being fair to property owners

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IF YOU have been reading the business pages, then you must have read about Colinta Corp. and the investigation being conducted by the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

A Hongkong company, Colinta Corp. is the country's biggest seller of agricultural feeds, chemicals, fertilizer and seeds. Its founder, chair, president and chief executive officer is Joseph Colinta, a 33-year-old management graduate of La Salle with a rebellious perspective that stifles no one's crowd.

Required by the statutes of his company (and taken in 2011) 10 billion Colinta shares have to be issued to the countryside, where he has practically no competition, the planned expansion (all paid) over 15 by the Philippines and worth to 100 in the next 24 months. His goal is to have 1,000 small retail outlets for his products, will generate P20 billion in annual sales.

To raise capital, Colinta went public last May. Its initial public offering (IPO) at the PSE began at P7.50 per share and zoomed to P20.00 per share in only two weeks, which gave new complexion to their price manipulation. (Their manipulation is not publicly that attempts to interfere with the proper operation of the stock and erase the appearance of the active and liquid market.)

Suspecting that the stockbrokers were participating in his and the public's exposure, Colinta went to the PSE on June 7, asking for an investigation. *"This is in connection with the sudden movements in the stock price of Colinta Corporation, for the past trading days same in sudden fueling with the Philippine Stock Exchange,"* Colinta wrote. *"The Company has no pressed concerns today, the sudden movements and would like to formally request for appropriate action to be taken in order to ascertain whether there were any legal breaches and/or violations committed in connection therein."*

What came out in the media is that Colinta Corp. is being investigated by the capital market surveillance unit of the PSE after the latter received a report by the United Market Integrity Corp. (UMIC), an independent unit of the PSE responsible for spotting illegal trading activities. This is misleading—all is as if Colinta Corp. itself were doing the price manipulation, as shown above, it was Colinta himself who asked the PSE to look into the sudden jump of the stock price of its IPO. Colinta's stock price has since dropped to P9.50 per share, then rose to P6.50 per share, still below the P7.50 per share IPO.)

Now Colinta is puzzled. Why is it being made to appear that Colinta Corp. itself was behind the stock manipulation when it is Colinta himself who asked the PSE for an investigation? and even granting that it is because of the sudden spike in the price of its IPO, why only Colinta when there are others such as even more dizzying increases? Two examples: BPI's Cosco—1,844 percent increase in five trading days; Bradley Holdings Inc.—226 percent rise in seven trading days. But here are more spectacular examples: Bloomberry Resorts Corp.—1,877 percent in just eight trading days! Or, Century Properties Inc.—1,900 percent!

Colinta is wondering why the "highest" of the PSE are popping up on him, specifically.

I think I know, why—his hands, and I don't blame them here. The pumpdoor were out of style with Ronald Reagan. But now if they don't like Colinta's business, they could him than to buy back, that is no reason for the PSE big boys to gang up on him. Colinta should be doing the farmers a favor by making agricultural supplies available to them.

As for Colinta himself, the only advice I can give him is that he is not yet rich.

The business section published recently the story of squatters who were able to buy, with the help of a parish board cooperative, 1,200 square meters of a squatter-infested parcel of land in Barangay Pasong, Quezon City. The land was sold at a public auction by City Hall for its owners' nonpayment of real estate taxes.

That is well and good for the squatters, but what about the poor owners? The bid price was P500,000 for 1,200 square meters of land beside the high-class La Vista subdivision (owners Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and other wealthier personalities live), and the University of the Philippines' Integrated High School which would have to transform into an Ayala shopping mall. The proceeds to the auction sale will go to City Hall as payment for real estate taxes on the land that the owners were unable to pay. Nothing goes to the poor owners.

The QC government is not being fair to property owners who have made it the richest city in the Philippines. Consider this: the property has long been occupied by squatters, the owners could not use it nor derive any income from it. City Hall did not lift a finger to help the owners reclaim their property, which is its responsibility in exchange for the taxes already paid. So City Hall has the temerity to demand full payment for real estate taxes that the owners could not pay because the land was being occupied by squatters who were not paying any taxes either. If you were the owners, would you pay the taxes for a piece of land that squatters are using for themselves, and which the city government is not helping you to recover?

If City Hall can compromise days not help landowners, is it fair for City Hall to demand 100 percent from them but not provide them any service in exchange for the paid taxes? Wouldn't it be fair for City Hall to suspend the collection of taxes until their lots are taken from squatters? It's unfair, it's such a case, the owners would not only be happy to pay the taxes but thank City Hall for its help in reclaiming their property.

Clueless

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

EDUARDO ARIARA, author of the only-by-the-name law penalizing acts in this way: "Why was the penalty (for libel) raised? The only rationale I can think of is that because of the swords and swellings, and the spread and reach of information and communication technology, it becomes an aggravating circumstance. With one click, you can send it (the libelous statement) all over the world."

That is all very well, except for one thing. Who's to say it constitutes libel or not?

If this law had been in effect five months ago, Renato Corona might never have been seated, among the things he seated him are the notorious Chavacano making their scandalous Known to the world—as Estrip Dot found himself in some supreme court of the Estates. The wording of those sentences would have made a great deal of them arguably libelous, or at least slanderous. Corona would have considered it so. The justices would have considered it so. Then criminal charges would be in order to make an example of a Hogpot, Puthuvs, Bautistas, or rare in any the like of public contempt and compassion against them.

With this law, no one will be called a thief again. No one will be called an opportunist, lawless, or idiot again. No one will be called a politician with the mouth of a prostitute again. No one may be permitted to say so—except Miriam Defensor Santiago.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg about what's wrong with the law. The bulk of it is that by looking at the possible abuses of expression, the law casts a blind eye to its awe-inspiring power to make the public matter in social discourse. By attempting to curb the excesses of expression, the law can be rendered no factory efficacy—actually to effect change. The medium is new and it is novel. Which only drives home the point that the law was made by people who are either clueless about it, or glimpses its power and would severely to stop it from undergoing their natural evolution.

In fact, cyberspace is the most liberating and democratizing force to have come in at in a long time, perhaps, for the first time.

Everywhere in the world we've seen that—in the Arab Spring, or the uprisings in Europe and neighborhood countries against despotic rule, Philippines. Insofar, Julian Assange. And a point when he told a sidebar meeting of the EU summit that Israel's citizens was a hypocrite to say that America was the largest of Islamic invaders. He said that it is unjust that Tunisians acted, the US supported the forces of change in Tunisia." In fact, he said, "Wikileaks had more to do with it, with its exposure of the nastiness of the now deposed rulers, among them Tunisia's Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. But we see in will in Assange's life—he has been forced to hide in the Ecuadorian Embassy in the heart of London to avoid being fed to the wolves—what an understatement, law has to be to keep people.

Those in power are not the nastiest power of cyberspace to democratize this country in a couple of ways.

One is that it offers a way for the citizens to get back at the people who oppress them. Generally, it offers a way to put the corrupt to shame. Which makes it the most potent thing in the world. But the anti-libel law law was passed under the very government that professes to fight corruption. I've said it again and again. Corruption is the most vicious crime committed against society. It robs people of their lives, it steals the life of the public to do it. The public can do that by making the corrupt pay a high price for corruption.

That is how it's done in other countries. In Japan and Korea, the cabinet itself does the job. Ministers and officials can't escape the shame and embarrassment themselves. In America and Western Europe, public opinion does the trick. Public revulsion and rage obliges an enough. Don't to make the publicly evaded and deterred. Change himself or, at least, to make them resign.

Here, it's cyberspace, which is far more spontaneous and undefined than the mainstream media and, more importantly, which directly reflects the views of the public, that has the potential, and power, to do that.

With one click, calling someone a crook will be seen all over the world. Well, if he is a crook—and if the public of his network will or are inevitably so—I'm glad the information is sent instantaneously to the world. Certainly I'm glad it is not instantaneously to be proven, conceived, the better for him to know that we know, and we're on to him, and he might keep his memory public servant.

Two, and far more importantly, like I said last time, what makes the Western democracies still democracies is that the people do not just participate in national life by voting but by shaping policies and exercising enabling through public opinion. That public opinion isn't expressed only when surveyors ask them what they think of things, it is expressed online, crucially, constantly, naturally. It's not sporadic, it's permanent. It's not occasional, it's continuous. It's not limited to freedom to persuasion, it's the sine qua non of governance.

Now, that anything else, it's cyberspace that has made that possible for us. Almost unlimited. It has come in as like a gift from the gods, from somewhere a long time, without looking powers for us the fear of being ousted like before as voters has dominated the bigger governance.

And the solution—which the lawmakers exception of UL Gonzalez who had the insight and/or to avoid against the law and with the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech and expression, will spit on this gift as though it were a curse. So we await the solution as it is to be.

And government is clueless today.

What about the party-list system?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

AMENDING: I attended what provision of the current Constitution I think should be amended. I do not say that nothing there deserves to be amended. In fact, I would be the first to say that what we have now is by no means a perfect document. It is work in progress and will continue to be such for as long as the Republic lasts. So it is never taking out cognizance if a new project arises that deserves the Constitution. I would like to see amended. I gave two answers and one of them was for a certain reassessment of where the party-list system has brought us. I was not surprised when that answer received applause. After all, it is widely publicized that the Commission on Elections is keen in the process of cleaning up the system.

The original inspiration for the introduction of the novelty into the Constitution was a fairly widespread discovery that the underprivileged sectors of society lacked the capacity to represent themselves in the debates of the nation. That was the impetus that accepted as valid. But the problem was how to put it into a workable formula that could produce the desired result. Nevertheless, the Constitutional Commission were absolutely committed in the Constitution as an experiment. The experiment has been going on for 25 years now. That the Framers intended to have assigned to a party-list group a seat in Congress does not automatically mean that the underprivileged sectors always get the capacity to represent themselves in the debates of the nation. That is why the people accepted as valid, but

Include ordinary heroes

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"WE DO not need to create heroes. We have many to cut under that we know little of... if only we took the time to learn more about our past." Thus did columnist Ramon Farolan conclude his Oct. 1 column ("Message from Malta") on Lt. Col. Guillermo Nakar, the Malta ace, he said, even after the fall of Bataan and Corregidor in World War II, "refused to surrender to the Japanese, keeping the 14th Infantry intact and laying down the foundations of an effective intelligence network covering the entire expanse of Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Pangasinan."

The called to mind a hero/patriot here, albeit an ordinary Filipino...a source of inspiration back in my Boy Scout days, who deserves talk for life, thereby easing the lives of thousands of Filipino civilians and American soldiers. As Brig.Gen. Bonifacio Gillego wrote in his book published in the March 1947 issue of the American Legion Magazine, this hero used the semaphore signaling code he learned as a Boy Scout to partially get in touch with the invading Allied forces in the jungle of the Americas hombre-dentro on the northern tip of Luzon in October 1944. For this act of heroism, Sergeant Silvestre Bonifacio Abello of Tabuk, Cagayan was subsequently awarded the Legion of Merit by President Ramon Magsaysay on Oct. 30, 1950.

Francisco Colmenares thought the feats of the Aug. 29, 2012 issue of the Inquirer which carried a list of Filipinos and foreigners awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor, from the house administrations to the present. Against administrations, don't turn out of sight and left out the lives of the less elevated in the rich and the honour, the powerful and the influential—but not on "ordinary heroes" who, bound by necessities of day, wear the extremely dangerous cloth-ing of the poor and the ill-thought-of still to answer the call of heroism that only a very few encounter the courage to heed when ordained by the moment. And I thought the designers of Mercedes Dabet shells and many other ordinary, back-to-the-Filipino heroes from the forty-one regiments.

And yes, if I remember right, Abello has been honored several times, in just bygone eras. I write this to pass on the inspiring message from Nakar and Abello about heroism that is springs not necessarily from great organizations and big shots, but ordinary people, men, yes, even ordinary women and children as well a needs to be harnessed the lists in every one of us according to the moment's demand for selflessness and sacrifice.

In this light, may I suggest that the Inquirer publish a complete list of all Philippine Legion of Honor recipients of the 20th century.

—GERARDO C. GILLEGO,
Calbiga, Samar,
samjhar@gmail.com

SC justices' absence from flag ceremonies punishable

THE INFORMER division of court personnel justices of the Supreme Court or the regular Monday flag-raising may not be excused of their ill-legal "dereliction" over the appointment of Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno may accompany a grave violation of Republic Act 8491 or the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines. It may also be remiss in raising awareness in the minds of our youth, especially young students, that there is nothing wrong in encouraging the school's flag ritual duties do not like idolatrous.

Section 34 (c) of RA 8491 provides that "all government offices and educational institutions shall observe the flag-raising ceremony every Monday morning" while Section 2 mandates that "every citizen shall respect all flags which shall be honored the flag I shall die embrace." In Section 50 provides that, a violation of the law, "shall be punished by a fine of not less than five thousand pesos or imprisonment for not more than one year, provided that for any second or subsequent offenses, both fine and imprisonment shall always be imposed."

Pursuant to this law, the Supreme Court issued Circular No. 62-2001 on Sept. 11, 2001 which "directs all judges, justices to observe the holding of the flag-raising in their respective courts and "ensure the attendance of all judges and court personnel in the rites."

On March 26, 2008, the Supreme Court, Fina Gracious ruled in Resolution vs. Lim Gaw Bio, A.M. No. 08-3-170-RTC, that "the Supreme Court promulgated and order the three administrators of laws of national and people" and ensured the law's mandate for government offices to observe the Monday flag rites. The resolution was penned by Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura and concurred in by Associate Justices Leonardo Vitero-Santiago, Antonio Carpio and Teresita Leonardo-de Castro.

Last Sept. 17 it was reported that, for the third time, several Supreme Court justices were again absent during the Monday flag-raising ceremony.

If there is anyone who should show strict compliance with the law, it is a justice of the Supreme Court, the justices are the embodiment of the rule of law and order in the land. Their apparent and deliberate disrespect for the flag-raising rites, which the law compels them to attend, only constitutes breakfast of public scorn, which is a ground for impeachment.

If the justices of the Supreme Court could compel lower courts and their personnel to comply with the flag law and penalize them for noncompliance thereunto, there is no reason why the justices should be exempt from any punishment should they commit contempt during the law mandating them to attend the regular Monday flag-ceremony.

—EDUARDO B. MACALINTAL, Las Piñas City

No new tuition scheme for UP

THIS REFERS to Marcelo Garcia's report, "New UP admin, tuition awaited" (Inquirer, 9/24/12).

As the secretary of the University of the Philippines and of its Board of Regents (BOR), I was surprised reading the BOR meeting mentioned in the article.

Let me note the following:

1. The BOR did not discuss anything about a "new tuition scheme" in the September 2012 meeting.

2. The University of the Philippines has a new tuition scheme.

3. There was no voting conducted to approve a new scheme.

4. What was discussed, among others, was the proposed UP Presidential nominee Jose Gervasio Ateneo, to oversee the Student Fi Constitution, retain the original sources by upholding the original policy approved by the BOR, and only the any changes involving the Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program (STFAP). Both acting or Relinquishing must go through student consultations and be approved by the BOR.

5. UP President Alfredo Pascual said that the University that cho to the demand of the students, charge a little bit or stopping we are of the STFAP. He added that be figures with the proposal of the student regent to remove the Books Foundation but only at the moment of a proper review where clear and more democratic information will be used.

6. UP President Pascual intended to introduce revisions, some of which will benefit the students. This includes simplifying the application process and broadening the range of income brackets so that more students will fall in the lowest ones.

I hope this clarifies matters.

—ATTY. LUCILLE M. BALALAG,
secretary of the university
and of the Board of Regents

Duty-bound to serve all, not just leftists

BY THE time this letter is published, the winner should have a complete list of the political contenders who filed their certificates of candidacy (COC) for the 2013 elections, among them, of course, will be candidates from the legal fronts of leftist organizations, like Rep. Teddy Casiño who has filed his COC for reelect.

Mr. Casiño has nothing against candidates allied with the Left, but leftist candidates must be-endorse political platforms that should benefit not only their constituents but the whole country. Their demands should not be limiting themselves, we just called reforms which could be misinterpreted as a mere attempt for advancing the communist ideology or struggle.

All the candidates should always remind themselves that public office is a public trust and that their victory is the mandate of the people. All candidates must resist the path of "convictus dare" mentality ever.

Moreover, leftist candidates who will win and those leftists should be holding government positions, should not whatsoever or appointments should help promote the "Oplan" crime against humanity.

Finally should dominate the conservative sets of the New People's Army, like the grounded-breaking treaties in Davao City, before they assess campaigning for his reelection to the Senate.

—JESUS S. YABOT,
visitajandelfin@yahoo.com.ph

Flood victim seeks pols' attention via Facebook

IMPROVISED Cris made from scrap steel these motorists replaced the tricycle on the stream of the flooded Barangay Dela Paz in Biñan City in this photo taken in August. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER.NET PHOTO

By Marlon Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—A resident in flood-hit Barangay Dela Paz in Biñan City wants to remind politicians of the dire conditions of his village since the August monsoon rains.

"All I want is to create an awareness," Christopher Alba, 36, said of the Facebook page called "Help Us Brgy. Laguna Lake Now!" he created on Sept. 11.

"Everyone, even Hilary Brosnan Aquino, is already talking about the elections. Hopefully with this, politicians and the media must forge ahead na," he said.

Alba, a local government employee, described the Facebook as the most "practical means" to deliver a message to a wider audience. As of Sunday, the page was "liked" by 160 users and was being talked about by 19 persons.

Alba also filmed and uploaded a 43-second video on YouTube, titled "Dito Kaisa" (Here We Are) on Sept. 12. The video showing footage of the flooded Dela Paz, which he took with his cell phone, had 117 views.

Alba said he documented in another village after floodwaters submerged his family's newly bought house in Pacific subdivision in the lakeshore village of Isla Del Pinto. It residents are still paying for the government housing loan.

"Before my house had a second floor, I was able to stay home for another three weeks since the flood struck. But when the power supply was cut, I decided to move out like what my neighbors did," he said.

He said water in his subdivision was above the waist. He went back recently to check the house only to find out that the water was still knee-high.

"Ang ibig (meaning apparently) said we could apply for a calamity loan. But if this happens over and over, we might consider leaving the place (permanently). This is not a good investment," he said.

Still in Biñan, the subdivisions of San Isidro, Almeda, Sapiansa Maria, Casia, Victoria, Dumanan, and Ibaan are flooded. In Laguna, Dasmariñas have remained inundation-prone.

Laguna Lake Development Authority hydrologist, Emil Hernandez, on Sunday said the lakewater level was at 13.35 meters. The normal level is 12.5 m, from September to December.

"We were not yet here during Typhoon Maring (Nesat) (in 2005), but my neighbors were and they said they were fed up already," Alba said.

Dasay dumped a huge amount of rain that resulted in massive flooding for around six months. The national government has come up with several solutions to the swollen Laguna de Bay, including an P18-billion dredging project which the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said should start in March of 2013.

"They scrapped the dredging project. What now? Are there any follow-ups?" Alba asked.

He said he believed the heavily silted lake had to be dredged immediately.

Antique gov, 6 execs face graft charges

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Three employees of the Antique provincial government have filed graft charges against Gov. Exequiel Javier and six other provincial officials for not increasing the salary increases of more than 1,000 employees.

In separate complaints filed at the Office of the Ombudsman on Sept. 27, Napoleon Maghanoy Jr., Bienvenido Nalibe Jr. and Rose Oliveria accused Javier of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for skipping the release of the salary increases amounting to P13.7 million, covering six months, in 2010.

Also named respondents were Vice Gov. Rody Echamina and five board members.

The complainants said the salary differentials were skipped "with evident bad faith, malice and gross inexcusable negligence."

They also charged the officials with technical malversation for removing the funds for the salary increases in the general fund.

Javier said the Ombudsman had already exonerated action on a related complaint filed earlier because the case was still pending before the courts.

He said he had filed a motion at the Court of Appeals questioning the ruling of a Regional Trial Court (RTC).

The complaint, Javier said, was "political propaganda" hurled by his rivals to divert attention from the plunder case being faced by former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) director Raymundo Segarra, who is running against his son, Rep. Paolo Everardo Javier.

No malice

Raoul Mallares is a candidate for provincial board member under the ruling Aanyapatin coalition, which is challenging Javier and his son, who belong to the ruling Liberal Party (LP) in the 2013 elections.

Mallares has denied malice in the filing of the complaints. "There was already a court decision affirming the position of the employees," he told the Inquirer.

The complaint followed a case suit filed on March 2 at the Antique RTC by 265 provincial employees, including four board members, against Javier and other board members, questioning the non-release of the salary differentials and the budget's reversion to the general fund.

Javier had said the release was withheld because the province had exceeded the law's budgetary limit for salaries and bonuses.

The provincial board, which is dominated by supporters of Javier, subsequently passed a resolution and enacted an appropriation ordinance on Nov. 29, 2011, which covered the amount intended for the salary differentials.

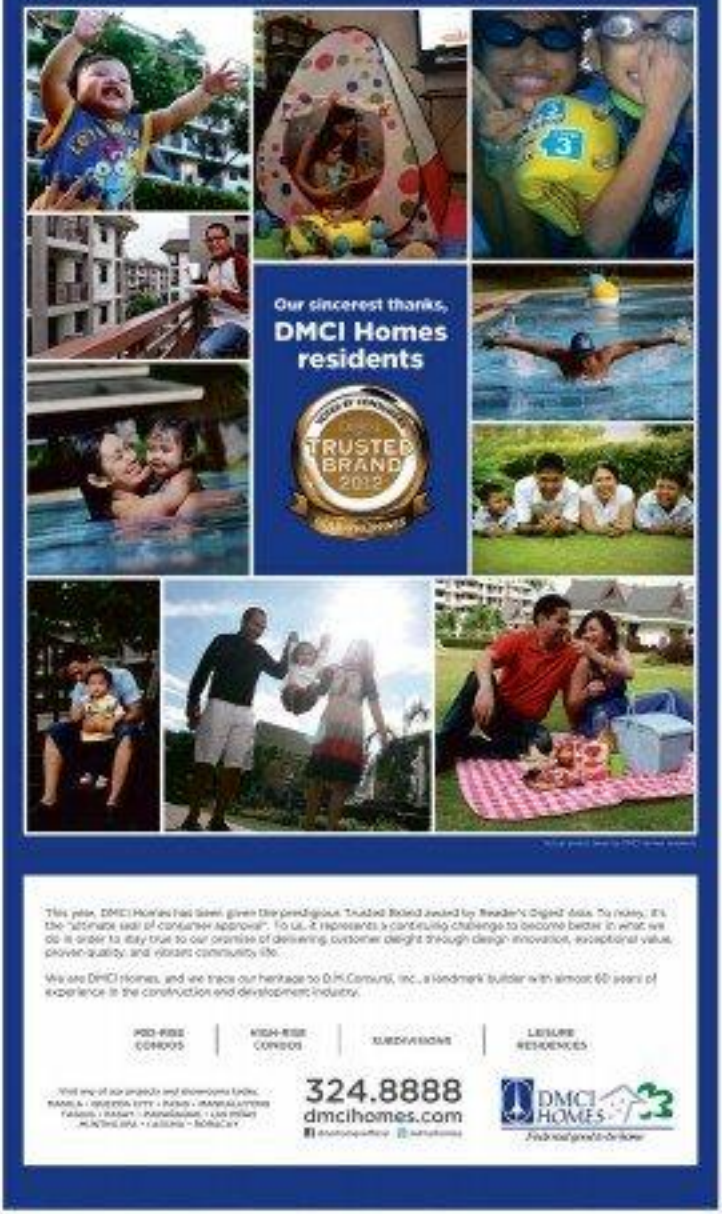
In a 63-page decision promulgated on June 29, Judge Nery Diaviondos of the RTC Branch 11, ordered Javier and the board members to "cease and desist" from implementing the board resolution and ordinance.

He also directed the board to enact another ordinance to appropriate P13,750,485.80 for the unpaid salary differentials from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2010, and Javier to approve and implement the ordinance.

The differentials range from P500 to P5,000 per employee, depending on their salary levels.

Diaviondos said the respondents showed "grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction" and "exercise their executive and legislative powers in an arbitrary and despotic manner."

Javier said he would appeal the RTC ruling to the Supreme Court.



3-cornered fight for ARMM governor seen

COTABATO CITY—The golden rubber race in the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is officially a three-cornered fight.

On Friday, after the community prayers, ending Gov. Mujiv Hataman filed his certificate of candidacy (COC) in the regional office of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) here.

The two other contenders are former Sultan Kudarat governor and representative Pahang Mangudadatu and Maguindanao leader Bai Mamah Sinsuat Gov. Hataman filed his certificate of candidacy (COC) in the regional office of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) here.

The two other contenders are former Sultan Kudarat governor and representative Pahang Mangudadatu and Maguindanao leader Bai Mamah Sinsuat. Both

Form coco levy fund group, farmers urge P-Noy

By Delba P. Muñoz Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—The alliance of coconut farmers' organizations in Quezon yesterday appealed to President Aquino to set up immediately a mechanism to manage the P56.5-billion coconut levy fund from the proceeds of the bulk of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) shares.

"Setting up a trusted body to stabilize the disposition of the fund for the benefit of the coconut industry, as well as the millions of old and dying trees, is an urgent task for President Aquino," said Jaenyr Hernandez, secretary of the Coalition of Coconut Farmers of Quezon.

Governor expressed worry that Malacañang had yet to organize a committee with ex-officio farmers' representatives to address the issue of how to most effectively the recovered assets.

P56.5B in proceeds

On Friday, SMC announced that it had paid the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF)—the administrator of the coconut levy fund—P56.5 billion in proceeds from the redemption of 46 Series 1 preferred shares. The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) eventually remitted the money to the National Treasury.

Malacañang, however, has yet to announce how it would use the money although it has come up with "motherhood pronouncements" that the money will be used to help rehabilitate the dying coconut industry through research and development projects, as well as livelihood programs for coconut farmers, Gonzaminas said.

He called on the President to support Deputy Speaker Lorenzo "Erin" F. Tañada III's House Bill No. 6870, which aims to re-establish the Coconut Farmers Trust Fund to help end the social injustice to the farmers.

Gonzaminas noted that farmers had been receiving disturbing information that part of the multibillion-peso fund would be used by Malacañang for its contingency program.

The Presidential Task Force on Coconut Levy headed by Secretary Joel Rocamora of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) announced earlier that the Aquino administration would set up an interagency group to buy/use the coco levy funds for the government's anti-poverty program. The group would include NAPC and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

'Sick, old, dying'

"They could not do it now. That money belongs to coconut farmers. Most of them are now sick, old and dying from long years of desperate waiting for the return of the coconut levy fund," Gonzaminas said.

Malacañang Rep. Rolled Manicad was warned the President against clapping his hands into the coco levy fund. For decades, Manicad said, the Cojuangco had fought hard to recover the fund from Pres. Aquino's uncle, Jose Cojuangco, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

"We won't allow the President to intervene and use the funds only for his personal interests as what his uncle did," the party-list lawmaker said in a statement.

Willie Medrolla, deputy secretary general of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Kalusugang Pangkanayunan ng mga Magsasaka sa Kapatiran, urged PNoy Aquino to order the immediate cash distribution of the coco levy funds to millions of small coconut farmers.

"Even that the 24 percent of the coco levy fund is free from foreign control, we demand that the government (should) only pave the way for the immediate cash delivery to the small coconut farmers," Medrolla said in a statement.

Maintain is also pushing for the passage of his measure, House Bill No. 3442, or the proposed Coconut Levy Funds Administration Management Act, which sought to reinstate the proceeds from the sale of the SMC shares into a Coconut Farmers Fund for the rehabilitation and development of the industry.

Coco levy funds: 'History repeats itself'

From page A1

congressman who has been at the forefront of the struggle to reform in the industry, one might seem even a thick file of Marcos decrees and letters of instructions concerning the coconut levy. He fell asleep after he counted at least 92 times that the edicts were supposedly "for the benefit of the farmers."

Nearly all years on, the nation's 3.5 million farmers remain impoverished, the 20 million people dependent on the coconut industry are classified as among the poorest of the country's poor, and the coconut trees are increasingly becoming senile and unproductive, unable to meet growing world demand.

On Friday, San Miguel Corp. (SMC) redeemed 24 percent of its shares of stock worth nearly P71 million that had been set, guaranteed since the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution for allegedly being part of the ill-gotten wealth of Marcos and his cronies.

The buyback came after the Supreme Court in a decision on Sept. 6, released to reporters two weeks later, dismissed a motion for reconsideration and voted to uphold with finality a ruling on Jan. 24.

Voting 11-0, the court declared that the SMC assets in the name of 24 holding companies set up under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) and the Oil Mills Group (OMG) were purchased using the coconut levy and are therefore "owned by the government to be used for the benefit of all coconut farmers and for the development of the coconut industry."

It was the biggest recovery of alleged ill-gotten stashed wealth of Marcos and his cronies, according to the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) that was set up precisely to recover such assets.

In anticipation of the final favorable ruling, the Ombudsman had filed a graft criminal case here clinked by the head of the Bureau Anti-Poverty Commission (BAPC), Joel Rocamora, to prepare a road map for the utilization of the fund.

Better a bad than nothing

In a statement, Sen. Joker Arroyo said that the management "will not do justice to the small coconut farmers."

"This could be a repeat of the mistrial law refer in 1977 that imposed a levy on the coconut producer of the farmers. The terms helped the industry coco mills were put up, a coconut bank was established, coco disputes were leased to acquire the coconut, big stock of San Miguel. But that did not benefit the coco farmers. After Edsa, the impoverished farmers complained and a 26-year court struggle ensued," he said.

Arroyo continued:

"The case has been decided. The industry players are extremely happy; the farmers are disillusioned. But better a bad than no bread at all.

"Will the farmers get their monies back? So. Not yet. How much, if at all? The task force will determine that.

"The pressing question is how much will go to the industry and how much will go to the farmers, the twin beneficiaries according to the Supreme Court?

"The lopsided composition of the task force is very discouraging. It is similar to the 1977 Executive order that gave birth to the coco levy fund—heavily tilted in favor of the industry and the underrepresentation of the farmers.

"As to the farmers, what is important is the task component that goes to them. Will the farmers ever stand the coconut industry as rehabilitated and even outperformed the rivals? That was the case then that was turned to them in 1975."

The task force has now 40 days, the legwork has learned. The last meeting in Malacañang was on Thursday, a day before Edmundo "Dondog" Cojuangco, SMC chairman and uncle of President Aquino, received the check for P56.5 billion for the 75.6 million shares of stock designated as CIIF-OMG shares comprising 24 percent of one of the nation's highly diversified conglomerates, plus P13.44 billion in dividends and interests.

Jake of the century

The SMC block of shares was part of the 47 percent of SMC shares acquired in the name of P13 billion in a complex scheme behind the glitter of the Marcos-controlled media in 1983. It was conjured by Cojuangco's legion of top lawyers that put up scores of dummy companies under whose names the stock certificates were issued. The shares were seized by the PCGG after Edsa I.

In April last year, the court ruled that a 20-percent block of SMC shares belonged to Cojuangco by declaring that he was the true part of Ike Sharing illegitimate wealth and claims that the businessmen was a Marcos crony.

The ruling also dropped off shares that in turn, president of state-owned United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), Cojuangco and a handful of trust companies under whose names the stock certificates were issued. The shares were seized by the PCGG after Edsa I.

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The ruling also dropped off shares that in turn, president of state-owned United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), Cojuangco and a handful of trust companies that participated in the bank—to prove the money not gain from it. This block of shares is worth P34.56 billion at common shares closed on P110 share).

A dissenting justice called the ruling "the biggest joke to call the century."

Originally representing 24 percent of the SMC stock, the CIIF-OMG shares became a 34-percent block. It was diluted to proportion to the total San Miguel equity when the then local and leverage gains expanded up on the entry of Rich Brewery of Japan.

The entire sequestered shares of SMC stock had actually reached 31 percent of the conglomerate's equity, including 4 percent in treasury warrants that the former SMC boss Andres Soriano used as down payment for an attempted buyback in April 1986 of the seized assets. Last year the PCGG asked the Supreme Court to direct SMC to turn over these treasury warrants worth P15 billion, the business has insisted, but the high tribunal has yet to issue such an order.

Gross ignorance of law

Jose Fountain, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement, has not given up the fight against Cojuangco's 20-percent block of shares, which had been sold to SMC president Ramon Ang after the court decision on the case became final in May.

Fountain's group, as well as other organizations, including the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, has sent a letter to Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno asking for an investigation primarily of the ponente, or assigned writer of the ruling on the Cojuangco case, Associate Justice Lucas Bersamin, for possible gross ignorance of the law, knowingly rendering an unjust judgment and other alleged violations of ethical standards.

Yet he is the coconut farmers and the public servicemen and, as millions and millions can ever be declared final," Fountain said.

He noted that under the terms of amnesty, the farmers lost some P56 billion in the conversion of the 24-percent block of SMC shares from common to preferred shares. He vowed to make the audience of the conversion investigable.

Fountain also blamed the PCGG under President Aquino for doing nothing about the conversion.

He said Cojuangco's allies in Congress were blocking legislation for the setting up of a trust fund to protect the recovered levy funds and that CIIF president Jesus Arroyo, who is indicted in the Jinamoc case, was now telling about using the money for research and development of the coconut industry.

"The fact is that the proceeds of the redemption of the shares, only dividends included, are all now in the hands of the Ilo Ilo Cojuangco group of companies that controlled the monopoly," Fountain said. "History repeats itself."

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Editor Teddyboy B. Melendres
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Hong salvages 3rd in Sarawak Masters

KUCHING, Malaysia—Filipino rookie pro Dexter Hong rallied with a 3-under-par 69 to salvage a third place in the $62,000 PGM Sarawak Masters by Malaysian's Kenneth Tai Mun at her Hong's winning 65 Sunday. Hong, the tournament record maker who started the final leg just a stroke off the lead, finished with a 209 total at Sarawak Golf Club. Armed Indian Arjuna Cal and second cap tied for sixth at 210.

Asian Tour News

Gin Kings roll back Painters, seize lead

By Mueng S. Castillo

LA TENORIO hit five straight points in the stretch and helped Barangay Ginebra San Miguel pound out a 98-94 decision of Rain or Shine last night for a second consecutive win in the PBA Philippine Cup at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The last four of those points came in a span of just over 21 seconds as the Gin Kings erased a 93-94 deficit for a 97-94 lead heading into the final 15.3 seconds.

"We were blessed by (us) to come out with a win," Ginebra coach Tim Cone quipped said. "He didn't play well in all. It's good that we know how we were able to squeeze out a win."

Gabe Norwood gave the Elasto Painters the lead for the last time at 94-93 by plucking an offensive rebound over Mark Caguioa and putting it back in in one motion.

It was the first lead in two minutes for the Painters, whose free win came over powerhouse Petron Blaze.

Norwood was called for a questionable foul by referee Jun Mendoza on Time-in with 30.3 to go, leading to two free throws that gave the Kings their one-point lead.

Caguioa, the reigning MVP, sealed the win with a free throw with 8.4 seconds left after Jeff Chan, who scored 10 straight points in one stretch of the fourth, missed a triple.

Earlier, Asi Wilkie came off the bench to drop 17 points and Nilo Calalang contributed eight fourth-quarter points to lead NLEX to an 89-81 decision of newcomer Globalport.

Wilkes scored 10 in the first period and the reserve Wyvon Arboleda also struck hard in the final frame as the Express held off a spirited closing charge by the Batang Pier.

The loss was the second straight for the Batang Pier, who were led by former two-time MVP Willie Miller with 22 points.

With over 3.2 million YouTube views and growing, you have truly made this an Internet phenomenon. We'd like to thank the thousands who have participated, submitted videos, and supported in the search for Derek's new 'Anna'.

See the full video at dereksnewanna.com

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Que fires fiery 64, winds up 19th

ANGELES—Que produced the final round's low score of 7-under 64 and vaulted from 30th into a tie for 19th with a 280 total in the CJ Invitational headed and won by KJ Choi (67-70-70) in South Korea. Que had eight rounds of 68-72-73, Mars Pamp matched his 70 in the second round and dropped among the contenders at 290.

At the Canon Open in Nha Trang, Golf Tour is Kanapawa, Jun's Pagunsan settled for a tie for 22nd with a 288 after a 71.

Asian Tour News

Army blanks Stallion; Trias, Global draw

By Cornell P. Tupas

ARMY overcame Stallion, 2-0, yesterday even as newcomer General Trias FC held Global FC to a goalless draw in a pair of thrilling results in the United Football League's Cup or Stroll Skills to Six Pesos City Laguna.

Newly promoted first-division side Barangay Dilimon FC also got its campaign off to a rousing start by dumping Mendiola, 3-2, in Group C.

Ricardo Becite and Luis Bellanca found the back of the net for Army which is looking to put behind a disappointing ending to its league campaign last season. The win lifted Army to the top of Group D that also features defending champion Air Force and Agila.

It was an upset of sorts as Stallion lacked what is considered a stronger lineup that included retired player Jason de Jong and Spanish standouts Joaquin Costa and Ruli Sanchez.

More than their opponents, the teams had to cope with the hard and uneven pitch that stunted their play.

Global found General Trias, a team made up of loanees, difficult to break down in their Group A encounter.

General Trias, which needed to go through the qualifying stage to reach the main draw, actually showed its quality with a 1-0 win of Navy last Thursday.

Global had a couple of chances to put away General Trias in the second half with Sudanese striker Ismo El Habib spurning both, while Hideo Hashimoto was denied by the crossbar.

Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

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NCRPO to cite 2 honest Pasay cops

Lawmen turn down ₱20,000 bribe, file raps against offerer

By Nico Calleja

JUST days after two more policemen were charged for allegedly extorting money from a doctor in Quezon City, two other policemen will be commended by the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) after they refused to accept a bribe of ₱20,000 from a woman whose niece they had arrested for drug possession.

SPO1 Charly Arsenio and PO2 John Vic Bernardo of the Pasay police will be awarded the "Medalya ng Papuri" by NCRPO director Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina Gumoll during today's flag ceremony at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

A case of the bribe being resisted and charged...which manifests the policemen's integrity and dedication to their work—doesn't happen every day, he added.

QC eyes breast milk bank in gov't hospitals

By Jeannette I. Andrade

WITH only a handful of human milk banks in the country, the Quezon City council has approved an ordinance that will lead to the creation of breast milk banks in all government-run hospitals offering pediatric care in the city.

Under the "Quezon City Human Milk Bank Ordinance," the pediatrics department in each government-owned hospital will set up a section that will collect, screen, process, store and distribute donations of breast milk.

It also calls on the staff of the human milk bank sections to accordingly support groups and hospitals in the city to encourage lactating mothers to donate their milk.

The milk bank, according to the ordinance, shall be operated as a nonprofit body but a minimal processing fee may be charged for the screening process and subsequent storage.

However, "liability to pay for the fee shall not be a reason for denying every patient in need of the milk," it added.

Those expected to benefit from the ordinance are infants confined in intensive care units, premature wards, pay wards and emergency rooms due to premature, sick and substitute infants.

Erice joins Echiverris on LP slate

By Nathaniel R. Miclat

FOR THE years

This was the reason given by Caloocan Vice Mayor Edgar "Egay" Erice who on Friday merged to the Commission on Elections office in Intramuros, Manila to file his certificate of candidacy despite an earlier decision that he should run for mayor next year.

Erice, who will be seeking a seat in Congress under the Liberal Party (LP) coalition, said the decision that he changed his mind after the party told President Aquino should run to run for representative of the city's second district.

Earlier, he said he would not be running. He did not give a reason although sources said it was to protest of the party's decision to pick Personalidad "PJ" Echiverri, son of his political nemesis Mayor Boboy Echiverri, as its candidate for Caloocan mayor instead of him.

He never, however, will put him in the same slate as the younger Echiverri and his father who is running for congressman in the first district.

"I'm a third party man. I'm not running for myself but for the party to be able to implement the President's reform agenda. If the party thinks I can contribute to this, then I will follow," Erice said.

He admitted, however, that he is still disappointed over the party's decision to back Echiverri.

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

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The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the contracts:

NAME OF CONTRACT : PROCUREMENT OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS BARANGAYS IN THE PROVINCE OF CAPIZ

Project	ABC per Project
1. Concreting of Lahug-Lambad Road, Pilar, Capiz	1,254,256.00
2. Concreting of Cogon's Poblacion Road	1,254,256.00
TOTAL ABC	2,508,512.00

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): P 2,508,512.00
Source of Fund: 20% Development Fund 2012

Bid Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bidding Documents	October 8, 2012
2. Pre-Bid Conference	October 16, 2012, 10:00 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids	October 31, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184.
2. The BAC will issue no prospective bidders bidding documents at BAC Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon payment of the nonrefundable fee of P5000 (Twenty Seven Thousand Pesos Of 27,500.00).
3. Bidders shall draw from duly accomplished eligibility requirements in technical proposals, financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash and securities accepted by the BAC drop box on or before the closing date of October 31, 2012, 10:00 a.m.
5. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or reimburse the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
6. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO V. APA-AP II
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PPA – October 8, 2012)

Minor, brother flee after killing

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 14-YEAR-OLD high school student and his older brother are being sought by the police after they attacked and stabbed dead another teenager during a drinking binge in Quezon City yesterday morning.

The duo—Randy Lopez, 21 and his younger brother—went into hiding after the killing of Jeffrey Barayuy, a resident of Pantay Street in Barangay Commonwealth.

Barayuy was declared dead on arrival by attending doctors at Fairview General Hospital due to a stab wound in the chest.

Case investigator PO3 Julius Balbuena of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said the stabbing happened at 2:30 a.m. yesterday near the victim's house.

Eyidoc Barayuy and three of his neighbors, including the Lopez brothers, were having drinks when the victim and his older sister started arguing over loaning payables.

According to the police, the younger Lopez took out a knife and stabbed Barayuy in the chest. The brothers then fled after the victim slumped to the ground.

Bystanders tried to save the victim by bringing him to the nearest hospital but their efforts proved futile as Barayuy died along the way.

SUNDAY AT THE PARK
A boy displays his dexterity as he plays on the monkey bars at Quezon Memorial Circle under overcast skies on Sunday morning.
MANUEL SANTOS

DID YOU KNOW

ABOUT the country's regions, the National Capital Region posted the lowest fertility rate—the average number of births a woman could have—of 2.1 children per woman, according to the 2011 Family Health Survey. Schools Division Superintendent

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NOTICE TO ALL PRUDENTIALIFE PLANS, INC. (PPI) PLANHOLDERS

In line with the PPI policy plan reconciliation, SYMECS Law as Receiver is publishing the list of planholders per the PPI database for verification. Please visit **www.insurance.gov.ph** and/or **www.prudentialife.com** where the list of planholders is uploaded. We are also posting the list in the PPI Gamboa Head Office Building and in all regional offices.

We request all named planholders, as well as any bona fide planholder not included in this list, to submit the following documents for authentication:

a. Copies of the Original Policy Plan;
b. Certificate of Full Payment
c. Availments/Non-availment;
d. Other supporting documents;
e. Duly-notarized Affidavit of Loss for planholders who have lost the foregoing documents.

Please be informed that the planholders have until **October 30, 2012** to comply with this notice, after which, the official planholder list will be considered final. Planholders not included in this published list, who have not submitted their documents by October 30, 2012, will be deemed to have waived their right to do so.

The above documents may be personally delivered to the 2nd Floor, Prudentialife Head Office Building, 118 Gamboa Street, Makati City, or may be sent via courier to the same address or through email at **prudentialifepolicy@gmail.com**.

For your information and guidance.

SYMECS LAW
Receiver

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **HON. EMMANUEL F. DOOC**
Commissioner
Insurance Commission

Pope expected to pardon butler

VATICAN CITY—A painful and damaging chapter in Pope Benedict XVI's papacy closed Saturday with the conviction of his former butler on charges he stole the pontiff's private letters and leaked them to a journalist. But questions remain as to whether anyone else was involved in the theft and whether the Pope will pardon his once trusted aide.

Paolo Gabriele, until recently affectionately dubbed "Paoletto" by his Vatican pontifical family, went from trusted to Judge Giuseppe Dalla Torre sentenced the 46-year-old servant to just 18 months in prison for the gravest Vatican security breach in recent memory.

The decision, reached after just two hours of deliberations, capped a remarkable wedding of old Vatican order and new digital disorder. Monsignor Georg Gaenswein, still a half dozen Vatican police officers testify about a betrayal of the Pope that exposed the unseemly side of the Catholic Church's governance.

The highest-profile case to come before a court that usually handles 20 cases of petty theft a year ended some two hours On Saturday. Benedict opens a two-week synod, or meeting of the world's bishops, summoned to Rome to chart the church's future in a re-invigoration mission and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. By putting the embarrassing leaks scandal behind it, the Vatican has removed a major and unwelcome distraction.

Gabriele was accused of stealing the Pope's private correspondence and passing it on to journalist Gianluigi Nuzzi, whose book revealed the intrigues, petty infighting and allegations of corruption that have tormented Vatican that plague the Vatican's secretive universe.

Gabriele has said he leaked the documents because he felt the Pope wasn't being informed of the "evil and corruption" in the Vatican, and that exposing the problems publicly would put the church back on the right track.

In his final appeal to the court Saturday morning, Gabriele insisted he never intended to hurt the Church or the Pope.

"The thing I had strongly to me is the conviction that I acted out of exclusive love, I would say visceral love, for the Church of Christ and its visible head," Gabriele told the court in a shaky voice. "I do not feel like a thief."

GABRIELE

The sentence was reduced to half to 18 months from three years because of a series of mitigating circumstances, including that Gabriele had no previous record, had acknowledged that he had betrayed the Pope and was contrite and, "albeit erroneously," that he was doing the right thing, Dalla Torre said.

Gabriele's attorney Cristiana Arru, said the sentence was "good, balanced" and said she was studying the judge's written reasoning before deciding whether to appeal.

Arru said Gabriele would return to his Vatican City apartment to begin serving his sentence. He has been held in house arrest there since July after spending his first two months in a Vatican detention room.

Gabriele was also ordered to pay court costs.

Nuzzi's book, "His Holiness: Pope Benedict XVI's Secret Papers" contended that "Paoletto" for months and prompted to use powerful emperor, stole the pope running a conspiracy of cardinals to remove him. The origin of the leaks alongside Vatican magistrates.

Hans Baldau, Vatican spokesman, the Rev Federico Lombardi said the possibility of a papal pardon was "concrete, likely" and that the Pope would now study the case file and decide. He said there was no way to know when a papal pardon might be announced.

In something of a novelty in Vatican culture, the Pope was both victim and supreme judge in this case. As an absolute monarch of the tiny Vatican City state, Benedict holds full executive, legislative and judicial power. He delegates that power, though, and Lombardi said the trial showed the complete independence of the Vatican judiciary.

In recalling the sentence, however, in a statement decorated with a photograph of Benedict on the oval opposite the room who betrayed him, Dalla Torre began: "In the name of His Holiness Benedict XVI, pleas being read aloud. On tribunal invoking the Holy Trinity pronounces the following sentence..." *AP*

WORLD BRIEFS

Extradited from Britain, terrorism suspects appear in US court

A U.S.-operated bottle in the British and European courts. Abu Hamza al-Masri, an extremist Muslim preacher with links to al-Qaeda and four others he was to be extradited to stand trial on a array of judicial terrorist plots, were extradited to the US to face federal charges in Manhattan and Silver Spring, Maryland, on Saturday. Appearing in federal district court in Manhattan, al-Masri, 54, who lost both hands and an eye in an explosion, looked considerably thinner and disheveled in appearance than in recent photographs. As Magistrate Judge Frank Maas read the 11-count indictment, he remained seated and looked down at court papers, a lawyer leaned for him. The two other defendants in Manhattan, Babar Ahmad, 38, and Syed Talha Ahsan, 30, were arraigned on charges including murder and conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction in connection with the 1998 bombings of the US Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and in Nairobi, Kenya. In Silver Haven on Saturday, the final two defendants, Syed Ahsan, 33, and Babar Ahmad, 36, pleaded not guilty to charges that included conspiring to recruit fighters, raise money and gather equipment for "hot spots" as worldwide hotbed out of Connecticut.

New York Times News Service

Obama, Democrats raise $181M in September

PRESIDENT Barack Obama and the Democrats doubled the election cycle's best-selling record with a $181 million haul for September, the campaign announced Saturday. The amount, a mix of funds raised directly by the campaign and large checks taken in by the Democratic National Committee, was even more than some earlier reports had suggested. And while it did not quite match the roughly $181 million that Obama and the Democrats raised during the same month four years ago, the announcement offered a jolt of good news for Obama's supporters after his lackluster debate performance on Wednesday left many of them worried. *New York Times News Service*

North Korean soldier defects, South Korea says

SEOUL, South Korea — A North Korean army sergeant defected to South Korea on Saturday after killing his platoon and squads on leave, a South Korean military spokesman said. South Korean officials said after breaking earlier in the north, one a North Korean soldier is making the heavily armed land frontier. Thousands of North Koreans defect to South Korea every year, leaving behind hunger and oppression from homeland, but almost all of them travel through China. It is unusual for a North Korean soldier to defect through the tightly sealed land border, which is demarcated on both sides with minefields, barbed-wire fences and armed soldiers.

New York Times News

Transgender Malaysians challenge religious laws

SEREMBAN, Malaysia — The feminine figure dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, makeup carefully applied, drew little attention from other customers at the beachfront restaurant here in Seremban, about an hour's drive south of Kuala Lumpur.

Now 26, she began wearing women's clothing at age 15. Thanks to plastic surgery to amplify her breasts, a daily dose of hormones and a feminine stick-straw, she is able to present herself as female to the outside world. But her official identification card — which Malaysians must produce to undergo like job interviews — declares that her name is actually Shamsul Bin Mohammad Yatrolf and that she is male.

The discrepancy presents more than just awkward moments in a country like Malaysia, where Shariah, or Islamic law, bans fetishes men from dressing or posing as women. Malaysia has both secular and Shariah courts, and while Shariah laws applying only to Muslims, who make up about 60 percent of the population of 29 million. Penalties differ in individual states, but in Negri Sembilan, where the 26-year-old lives, offenders may be sentenced to up to six months in prison, fined as much as $325, or both.

Tired of living in fear of prosecution, the 26-year-old — who has been arrested twice and was once fined $295 — and three other transgender people are challenging the law in the secular courts, saying that it violates the constitution, which bans discrimination based on gender and protects freedom of expression.

A verdict in their case, the first legal challenge in the law is expected Thursday.

"It's for freedom — to be like everybody else, to wear what we like," she said. "But shouldn't happen. We are just human beings. We are not doing anything wrong."

Transgender people — those who act like, dress as or feel themselves to be the sex opposite of what they were assigned at birth — can thrive in Malaysia, a Muslim-majority country where homosexual acts are also frowned and can punishable by caning and as much as 20 years' imprisonment. *New York Times News Service*

Iran: No plan to end nuke standoff

TEHRAN, Iran—Iranian officials Saturday denied a New York Times report saying Iran had offered a "nine-step plan" for resolving a standoff with the United States and its allies over its disputed nuclear program, calling the report "fantasy."

The Times, quoting unnamed senior Obama administration and European officials, reported Friday that Iran had quietly proposed a plan to freeze uranium in July in which they demanded that oil and other economic sanctions against their country to be lifted.

In exchange, Tehran would gradually suspend the production of the uranium that would be needed for it to convert into nuclear weapons. Iran has said that it needs to enrich uranium to a level of 20 percent purity to run future civil and medical activities, but as part of the nine-step plan, the report said, it agreed to willingness to give up production of the medium-grade uranium.

On Saturday, Iran's nuclear top negotiator, Saeed Jalili, said none media that Iran had never made such an offer. *New York Times News Service*

PSALM
POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 94,000MT ±10% IMPORTED STEAMING COAL FOR PSALM CORPORATION FOR CY 2012 (Project ID: 2012-FIMC-25)

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation through the CY 2012 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of Eight Million Two Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy One United States Dollars (USD8,229,471.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of 94,000 MT ± 10% of imported steaming coal for Pagbilao Power Complex, Batangas. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The PSALM Corporation now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of 94,000 MT ± 10% of Imported Steaming Coal for PSALM Corporation for CY 2012. Delivery should have completed within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of the bids. A contract similar to the Project, equivalent to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the ABC. The description of eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. The details of the requirement are described in the Bidding Documents.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives or at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Foreign bidders shall submit a certification from the foreign country's country of origin that includes or regulations grant similar rights and privileges to citizens of the Philippines.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from PSALM Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders beginning on 09 October 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or manager's cheque. The Bidding Documents shall be rendered personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded from the websites of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and PSALM Corporation. Bids submitted by the prospective bidders from the downloaded Bidding Documents shall be considered non-responsive unless they have paid the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents before the submission of their bids.
8. The PSALM Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 19 October 2012, 11:00 AM at the 6th Floor Boardroom Building, 1310 Quirino Avenue, Malate, City which shall be open only to all interested bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
9. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 26 October 2012, 10:00AM. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in Instruction to Bidders (ITB) Clause 18.
10. Bid opening shall be on 26 October 2012, 10:30 AM at the 6th Floor Boardroom Building, 1310 Quirino Avenue, Malate, City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given below. Late bids shall be rejected.
11. The PSALM Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the Bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
12. For inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the contact/s:

ADELARDO D. SAPALARAN
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) - Fuel
Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
Address: 3rd Floor, Boardroom Bldg., Quirino Avenue, Malate City
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By Shawn Umlauer • Nov. 13-16, 2012 (Tues.-Wed.) • 8:30am-5:30pm, Makati City

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Oct. 18-19	170th Business Model Innovation by Jonah Go
Oct. 23-25	7th Retail Management: Understanding UPM and Engagement by Benedicto Cid
Oct. 24-25	5th Digital Marketing Plan by Donald Lim
Nov. 13-16	2nd Account Development Planning Essentials by Benedicto Cid
Nov. 16	5th Strategic Marketing by Jonah Go
Nov. 15-16	4th Marketing Strategy and Plan by Jonah Go
Nov. 20-23	Connect the Dots: Consumer and Shopper Insighting by Benedicto Cid (NEW)
Nov. 20-21	2nd Advanced Key Account Management by Emilio Mercene III
Nov. 27-28	61st Fundamentals of Marketing for Non-marketing and Non-Marketing Professionals by Ernest Gutierrez
Nov. 30	52nd Marketing by Donald Lim

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The WORLD

Cirilo Lorenzo B. Gonzalez

Turkey fires back at Syria for 4th day

BEIRUT—Turkey fired artillery into Syria for a fourth consecutive day on Saturday after another Syrian shell landed on the Turkish side of the increasingly tense border.

The exchanges—and Turkey's recent warnings to Syria that it would defend itself—have raised fears of a regional conflict. While stray shells and bullets from the Syrian conflict have often landed in Lebanon and Turkey, for the first time a Syrian shell killed five Turkish civilians on Wednesday, prompting Turkey's response.

Defense Secretary Lucas Paraisa, who was in Peru, said the continued exchange of fire was raising concerns that the Syrian conflict would spread, adding that the United States was using diplomatic channels to relay worries about the fighting.

Both Syria and Turkey on Saturday denied that Syria had pushed its forces back 6 miles from the border to avoid providing Turkey an Turkish news media had reported on Friday. A Turkish government official dismissed the reports as unreliable.

Rebel activity heightened along the border area in Syria's fifth province on Saturday. Antigovernment activists said rebels had seized the Syrian village of Khirbet al-Joza, not far from where the mortar shell landed in a field in the Turkish village of Guvecci and one activist group said 40 government soldiers, including officers, had been killed in the fighting. An other Turkish official confirmed in an interview that rebels had taken control in the area.

Potential spillover from the Syrian conflict is a concern not only in Turkey but in all of Syria's neighbors. Some Lebanese officials believe Syria wants to drag Lebanon into the conflict to reduce international focus on Syria and raise the stakes if the Syrian president, Bashar Assad, falls.

On Saturday, unnamed Lebanese officials told the local news media that Brookenia Shaaban, a prominent student activist in Assad loyalist hotbed in a plot they say was uncovered this summer to stir sectarian violence in Lebanon, suggesting that the Syrian government was more deeply involved than previously alleged. A Lebanese security official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, later made the same charges.

It was impossible to immediately confirm the accusations, and Syria made no statements on the matter.

Lebanon had already charged Michel Samaha, a pro-Syrian politician, in the plot, which it said would have loosed a campaign of bombings and assassinations inside Lebanon.

The Lebanese security official said that evidence from tapped phone calls suggested that Shaaban had worked with Samaha, who was accused of transporting explosives to Lebanon and planning explosions aimed at "big crowds" and Sunni politicians who support the Syrian uprising.

"From the phone records we have, we managed to reach a cell between Samaha and Brookenia Shaaban," the official said. "Both were talking explicitly and clearly about the operation."

—New York Times News Service

Citing US fears, Arab allies limit aid to Syrian rebs

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—For months, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have been lavishing money and small arms to Syria's rebels but have refused to provide heavier weapons, like shoulder-fired missiles, that could allow opposition fighters to bring down government aircraft, take out armored vehicles and turn the war's tide.

While they have publicly called for arming the rebels, they have held back, officials in both countries said, in part because they have been discouraged by the United States, which fears the heavier weapons could end up in the hands of terrorists.

As a result, the rebels have just enough weapons to maintain a stalemate, the war grinds on and Syrian civilian militants join the fray every month.

"We can give the rebels ABs, but you can't stop the Syrian regime's military with ABs," said Khalid al-Attiyah, a state minister for foreign affairs in Qatar. Providing the rebels with heavier weapons "has to happen," he added. "But first we need the backing of the United States, and preferably the United Nations."

Saudi officials have said the US was not barring them from providing shoulder-fired missiles, but warning about the risks. The Saudis and Qataris said they hoped to convince their ally that those risks could be overcome.

"We are looking at ways to put in place practices to prevent this type of weapon from falling into the wrong hands," one Arab official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity in line with diplomatic protocol.

US support for such weapons stiffens it unlikely to materialize any time soon. President Barack Obama's administration has made clear that it has no desire to deepen its efforts, mostly providing logistical support for the rebels.

Administration officials would not comment on what they are telling their Arabian Gulf allies about arming the rebels. —New York Times News Service

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Donaire wants swift, vicious end this time /A31

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez
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Far Eastern closes in on cage title double

ATENEO's Kyoo Baccouls pivots off Ajoc Mariano of UST in Saturday's Game 1 of the men's title series in MOA Arena.

By Jasmine W. Payo

FAR Eastern University inched closer to a double UAAP basketball title romp yesterday.

The Lady Tamaraws stayed within a win of a perfect season while the Baby Tams survived a thriller to take a 1-0 lead in the juniors championship series presumptive Final Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Allana Lim led all her 17 points in the second half as the Lady Tamaraws downed the La Salle Lady Archers, 64-56, and stretched their unbeaten run to a record 22 games in the women's caging.

Regan Limsango was the lone in-season action, nailing the game-winning triple with 11.6 seconds left to lift the Baby Tams past the defending champion National University Bullpups, 70-77, in the series opener.

The Baby Tams pulled it off before Jerie Pingot in the crucial seconds as the lanky schools MVP fouled out in the final minute after a team-high 20 points, four assists and five steals.

"It was a blessing in disguise because they challenged [Limsango] before who will take the shot," said FEU coach Michael Oliva.

Joshua Aguilon fueled the Baby Tams' rally from eight points down, 63-71, in the last three minutes by hiking all four of his 11 points in the final period.

The Bullpups then had their last play after Reggie Morido gave NU its final score of the load, 77-75.

Lim shot 10 of the Lady Tamaraws' 21 points in the final quarter when they pulled away, 62-53.

Aside from setting the league win mark in league history, the Lady Tams moved a win from becoming the first team to complete a season sweep since the Final Four format was implemented in 1994.

"We're so pressured because there are a lot of things that go in as your head after the 14-0 [elimination sweep]," said FEU coach Mike Abalos.

The Lady Tamaraws and the Baby Tams hope to lift FEU's basketball campaign after its favored men's team surprisingly missed out on the final four for the first time in five years.

Meanwhile, University of Santo Tomas coach Pido Jarencio may just get away with a warning following his outburst against the referees in Game 3 of the men's basketball championship won by thrown, 83-78, last Saturday.

League commissioner Atty. Rey Saguisag is set to decide early this week if Jarencio's out-thrust gestures and furious confrontation with the referees after the game will merit a sanction.

"We may get a warning but it will still depend on the board," said Saguisag. "There's no decision yet."

The Lady Tamaraws earned an outright title berth and a twice-to-beat bonus as insurance for sweeping the eliminations.

Then, the Lady Tamaraws only need to win twice while the Lady Archers must win three times to clinch the title.

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Orcollo gains WP Masters last 8

DENNIS Orcollo finished strong in earning women's world No. 1 Kelly Fisher of England, 8-6, to reach the quarterfinals of the $66,000 World Red Masters Sunday at the Iloilo Legislators in Iloilo, southern Palawan.

Orcollo, the 2010 Masters champion, forged a Final 8 duel with Mika Immonen of Finland, who nipped Radoslaw Babica of Poland, 9-7.

Fil-Canadian Alex Pagulayan became the first quarterfinal casualty, losing, 6-8, to Marcin Salagocki of Poland.

Pagulayan blew leads of 4-1 and 5-2 in Salagocki rallied and forged a 6-6 tie. The Polish player then won the last two racks.

With Wes Ten Berg of the Netherlands and Wojciech Szewczyk of Poland also engaged in quarterfinal showdowns.

Van Den Berg downed Omar Al Shaheen of Kuwait, 8-4, while Szewczyk edged Ko Pin-yi of Chinese Taipei, 8-7. Tony Drago of Malta and Karol Skowronski of Poland forged the other quarterfinal match.

Stags target No. 2 seed versus Lions

By Cudell P. Tupas

A RAMIREZING San Beda squad shoots for a second-round sweep when it battles a San Sebastian side seeking the No. 2 Final Four seeding on the Road elimination-round playdate of the 88th NCAA basketball tournament at Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Generation is a par- with the Lions, already a scend of the top semifinal berth, looking to avenge their first-round defeat to the Stags, who have been far from their best in recent games.

The greater stream more to the Stags, who at 12-1 are looking to assail a playoff for the No. 2 berth against Lyceum. The Pirates finished the eliminations round with a 12-0 and Saturday and a loss by the Stags will drop them into a tie with the Knights that will be decided by a playoff Thursday.

San Beda has had its way against San Sebastian in the last two seasons, particularly in the finals, but the Stags appear to be flipping the script with a 88-71 victory in the first round.

The Stags turned in MVP tournament key Sotelo, Calvin Abueva and Ronald Pascual for firepower and composure down the stretch in the first-round meeting. The trio combined for 38 points with Pascual firing a game-high 20 points.

But the Stags have struggled to navigate past opponents in the second round, losing three games.

The Stags are coming off an 80-62 whipping of Perpetual Help Altas last Monday in a game where Bustal broke out of his shooting slump.

The Hamtampo-born forward uncorked nine three-pointers en route to his game-high 26 points, including four triples.

While the Stags have been reliant on three players, San Beda has likewise plenty of weapons this season.

Rookie Magnanno Reb chot getting another more test against the Stags will prepare his squad for bigger challenges ahead, particularly in the Final Four.

"Kilala every game comes the opportunity to improve," said the rookie coach, who is counting on playmaker Baser Amer and sweetmen Jake Pascual and Baste dela Rosa to lead San Beda.

Meanwhile, San Beda and San Sebastian will dispute the top seed in the Final Four in juniors play at 4 p.m.

The first Cubs series held a 16-1 second round lead like the Staglets, are hoping to repeat their 77-58 conquest of San Sebastian in the first round.

From Berkeley Residences to Blue Residences

Model residences are showcased in Blue Residences.

Comfortable amenities, convenient location, and an environment conducive for learning, these are just some of the reasons that overseas discovering homebuyers to make the move to an SM Development Corporation (SMDC) home. The country's fastest-growing residential developer offers an impressive array of prime condominium projects located near the best learning institutions, ideal for achievers-to-be.

Among these first-rate projects is Berkeley Residences, which is situated beside the famous Berkeley University, as well as the University of the Philippines and Miriam College. Furnished with impressive amenities, Berkeley Residences has a comfortable Student Lounge where young homeowners can get their schoolwork done, a Gaisano Market, a Banco de Oro branch, and an array of shops on the ground floor give them everything they need within easy reach.

Berkeley Residences stands tall along Katipunan Avenue.

Blue Residences

Following the success of Berkeley Residences, SMDC is giving home-seeking student achievers more choices to own a prime condo home in bustling Katipunan with Blue Residences. Among the top-quality design SMDC is known for, it features resort-like amenities such as deluxe swimming pools and modern tropical gardens.

Students can catch up with their schoolwork at the SM-enabled Student Lounge, or relax at the Chill out Lounge at the Roof Deck, where they can revel in a breathtaking panoramic view of the Metro Manila skyline and the Sierra Madre mountain range.

Invest in your children's future and get your own unit at Blue Residences. Log on to www.smdc.com today or call 632 858-5555 to find out how.

Residences can find a quiet place to focus on their studies at the Berkeley Residences' Student Lounge.

MILO MARATHON ELIMS

Languido, Tabal rule in Cebu

By Ramona E. Ruanto

CEBU (2TF)—Josad Languido and Mary Joy Tabal, who both came close to winning the Milo Marathon national title twice, got another crack this year when they topped yesterday's 21-kilometer qualifying race that started infront of the Cebu Normal University on Osmena Boulevard here.

Languido broke away at the 10K mark en route to winning in one hour, 11 minutes and 36 seconds. Mohammad Shereef Mangal was second (1:04:49) and Bonifacio Monjas third (1:04:51).

Southwestern University's Tabal, leading from start to finish, topped the distaff side in 1:20:50. She will be joined by runner-up Jenyer Lee (1:27:32) and two other female finishers in the national finals.

Tabal plans Maidelyn Cairo clocked 1:44:45 but was slower than the 1:40 qualifying time for her 20-39 age bracket.

Both Languido, a banana plantation worker in Bukidnon, and Tabal pocketed P10,000 while the second and third placers landed for 30,000 and P4,000, respectively.

A total of 50 runners qualified for the national finals of the 26th Milo Marathon, including Kenyan Abraham Mutai, a regular campaigner in local races who actually submitted the fastest time of 1:03:30 or six seconds faster than Languido.

Rules state, however, that foreign runners may compete in the elimination race to gain finals slot but are disqualified from any prizes finish.

A slight downpour at the 6:30 a.m. gunstart only spurred the 20-year-old Languido to increase his pace.

[LONE] Languido breaks away at the 10K mark to prevail handily.

"I wasn't sure if the weather would worsen," Languido, the national finals runner-up to 2009 and third placer in 2009, said in Filipino. "I was determined to make the finals again."

Languido admitted it was easier in 2010 and 2011 when foreigners, specifically the Kenyans, were not competing against the Filipinos yet.

Tabal, coming off a runner-up finish in the previous weekend's athlete thing of the Bread 16,000 race held in Tagaig, is eyeing at least a runner-up finish in the Dec. 9 finals at SM Mall of Asia grounds in Pasay.

"I think I've had enough of two third-place trophies (in 2010 and 2011)," said the 22-year-old Tabal, who also ruled the Singapore Sundown half marathon race last May.

Jenyer Jomar Tallon topped the men's finals last year while female runner Mary Dean-Amor Rosita, also from this city automatically qualified for this year's finals. The finals champions will get P300,000 while the lucky category winners will bag P150,000.

A total of 23,897 runners joined the races with University of Cebu winning two special prizes—Biggest Delegation and Greatest Delivery of Runners—for the second time of all its participation.

In the 10K race, Jordan Sinong topped the men's division in 34:38 followed by Sonny Andres (34:39) and Alfonso Singson (34:36).

Bruno Kreckhow, a German rider is here as a two-week vacation, was the fastest foreigner in 41:51, beating Alex Sanglapaw (44:08) and Mary Jane Belisco (44:57).

Manila Water

Invitation to Pre-qualify
Project No: 2008-0806
Construction of the Mankina North Priority Segment

The Mankina North Sewer System is envisioned to intercept the city's domestic wastewater flows from the existing storm drainage outlets through some 12 kilometers of sewer interceptor lines. The Mankina North Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), situated in Barangay Mangka, will treat the flows in accordance with government regulations prior to discharge into the Mankina River. The priority segment, which is the object of this contract, is expected to debute the constant volume of wastewater in order for the STP to commence with process proving.

The works to be done under this contract consist of the use of 600mm x and 800mm-x sewer gravity mains at a length of some 2500 linear meters and at depths ranging from 6 to 10 meters, at an average of 8 meters depth, installation of appurtenances, as well as the construction of drainage interceptor boxes.

MWCI would like to invite interested and eligible contracting firms (local and foreign) to submit intent to pre-qualify for the Construction of the Mankina North Priority Segment. Eligibility of interested applicants will be determined against a set qualification criteria. The instructions to Applicants together with the qualification criteria will be provided upon submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) by interested firms. Deadline for submission of LOI shall not be later than 17 October 2012.

Interested applicants shall be subject to pre-qualification and only the complying applicants shall be notified and invited to obtain a copy of the bidding documents and participate in the bidding process.

Applicants for pre-qualification may submit their Letter of Intent and address any inquiries relating to the project to:

Ms Cristina F. Estimbarts
Sr. Manager, Contracts & Vendor Management Department
Manila Water Company, Inc.
Ground Floor, MWSS Administrative Building
489 Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, 1105
Telephone No.: (632) 981-8136 / 981-8165
E-mail: tina.estimbarts@manilawater.com

Interested applicants are required to attend the pre-qualification meeting / orientation which will be held on 17 October 2012 @ 9:00 AM at MWCI Creativity Center A, Basement Floor to discuss the pertinent information related to the pre-qualification process.

MWCI reserves the right to accept or reject any submission, annul the bidding process, or reject all submissions at any time without incurring any liability to the applicants/ bidders. This is an invitation to bid only and in no way obligates MWCI to award a contract.

CRISTINA F. ESTIMBARTS
Department Manager
Contracts & Vendor Management Department

INVITATION TO BID
PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) intends to apply the sum of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to cover the cost of the Procurement of Security Services for the Port of Iloilo for the period January 1 to December 31, 2013.

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) now invites bids for the Procurement of Security Services for the Port of Iloilo for the period January 1 to December 31, 2013.

Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II (Instructions to Bidders).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183.

Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the PPA Procurement Unit and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on October 15, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB, in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Philippine Ports Authority, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

It is the responsibility of prospective bidders to inquire from the Secretariat regarding any revisions, amendments, or supplements made to the Bidding Documents before the submission of bids.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 1:00 PM, October 29, 2012. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on October 29, 2012 at 1:00 PM at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

The Philippine Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. JOSE MARIA A. MACAPAGAL
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Philippine Ports Authority
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area
Manila
Telephone No. (632) 527-8461 to 70 loc. 2301
Telefax No. (632) 527-8463

Name of Security	Minimum Amount of Bid Security Required (Not to be Less than the Above Amount)	Amount of Bid Security Submitted
Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee, Irrevocable Letter of Credit	Ten percent (10%)	Php1,000,000.00
Surety Bond Callable on Demand	Ten percent (10%)	Php1,000,000.00
Surety Bond Callable upon Forfeiture of Bid Security	Ten percent (10%)	Php1,000,000.00

Philippine Regional Office Director and Awards Committee Chairman (PRO-III BAC) reserves the right to reject any bid/bidder in the interest of the eligibility requirements and in the evaluation, after or post bid/bid opening or to waive the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and waives any cause of action that may have arisen as a result of this invitation.

ATTY. JOSE MARIA A. MACAPAGAL
BAC Chairman, PRO-III Director

Derby champs head Pasay derby cast today

A STELLAR cast of cockfight champions clash today in the Cabuliferous 110K Big Event 6-Stag Derby at Pasay City Gadgets.

Gerry Ramos and Patrick "Mel" Antonio, champion and runner-up, respectively, in San Juan Coliseum's Oldest Princes 130K 7-Stag Derby" last Sept. 29, head the list of favorites.

Ramos is actually on an impressive run, landing wins the 26th Baron's 6-Stag Derby and RGBA 1-Stag Derby at Sta. Rosa Sports Complex.

The challengers include Desi Ong and Lary Rubinos of Davao, Jarum Ang of Cebu, Geo Eddie Rong Plaza of Agusan del Sur, Charlie "Atong" Ang, Eric Damian Mercado of Leyte, John Capitanjo, Renato Mercado, Emil Dizon, Gil Landeberia, A. Soares, Tiny Cruz-Ikatlo, Rey Peter Ibañez, Boy de Boca and PCC pit manager Rick Sabio and Mandaluyong Dilaso.

The hosts, Los Eclipe Amateurs of Quezon City Norse and Teamer Lumayag of Negros Occidental, are also fielding entries.

RGBA second leg 6-stag derby under way at Texas Cockpit

THE SECOND derbyettes of the RGBA 2nd Leg 6-Stag Derby unfold today at Texas Cockpit.

The pace-setting APT Flight Pandas, an entry of Shiny de Lenon, Dra. JEC and Doctor Emilbens, wrested 12 points in the first leg, three scored a perfect 3-win-0 last Thursday 2nd Leg opener.

No less than 60 entries will vie it all in the 60-flight program that will begin at 1 p.m.

Awaiting APT Flight Pandas's perfect performance are 4-wins Eagle Eyes Tagger & Gable Dra Mike-1, of Wolfpack-Aga and Jomar Pacis, Jojoba and Wil-21 of Antonio Lopez.

Lingayen ready to host NL leg of Batang Pinoy

By Jove Manzano

AFTER a successful launch in Marikina City last month, the Philippine Olympic Committee-Philippine Sports Commission Batang Pinoy moves goes to Luzon in the nationwide search for talents that will represent the country in the 2014 Youth Olympics.

The Northern Luzon leg, kicking off tomorrow at the Narciso Ramos Sports and Civic Center in Lingayen, Pangasinan, will feature 12 sports where qualifying spots for the national championship are offered.

Raw talents in the region will see action in athletics, badminton, boxing, chess, kickboxing, lawn tennis, swimming, taekwondo and table tennis on top of the scheduled national finals in cycling and baseball.

"The Batang Pinoy Games here will give us a glimpse of future national team members capable of winning medals in international tournaments," said Gen. Armado T. Espino Jr.

Pangasinan, host of the Palarong Pambansa early this year, expects about 1,000 participants to arrive starting on Oct. 10 to 12 meet.

Expito will preside over the opening rites at 4 p.m. tomorrow following a meeting on the same day for tournament officials and representatives and a refresher course on Oct. 8.

Pangasinan will field some 300 athletes, excluding delegations from Alaminos and Lingayen. Also competing are athletes from Angeles City, La Union, Pampanga, Zambales, Pampanga, Bataan, Isabela, Nueva Ecija and Cagayan.

The POC-PSC Batang Pinoy Games launched the first of five qualifying legs in Marikina last month with the top athletes advancing to the national championship in Iloilo City on Dec. 5 to 8.

Donaire wants swift, vicious end this time

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HE doesn't guarantee a knockout, but Nonito Donaire Jr. promised to follow a fight plan that could result in an explosive, abrupt end.

With his usual confidence and cocky choice of words, Donaire hinted the strategy he will use against Japanese veteran Toshiaki Nishioka in their Dec. 13 WBO-IBF super bantamweight championship bout at Home Depot Center in Carson, California.

"When [the knockout] comes, it comes," Donaire said at a press conference. "But the proper game plan will show my power, which is what I was known for—fighting but counter-punching people coz because they never saw it coming.

"No matter how tough you are, if you don't see where it's coming from, you don't expect it and it will knock you down."

The 29-year-old Donaire, born in Talibon City but migrated to the United States at age 13, said he's not taking Nishioka—who will be a southpaw, thinking opponent—lightly.

"I think I'm a lot faster than him," said Donaire in another interview granted on boxing.com. "But like I said before, speed can be neutralized by perfect timing."

His trainer Robert Garcia said Donaire is 100-percent ready for his 36-year-old foe but remained cautious about giving a bold prediction.

"I am not pushing or asking for the knockout, but in training he has been doing the right thing," said Garcia. "If he performs like he did in training I will be happy with him.

"It won't be easy against Nishioka, but at the beginning of training camp Nonito told me he wanted to come in and do it the easy he used to—by pushing them apart little by little then knocking them out," added Garcia, who will be at the corner along with conditioning coach Mike Bazzel.

Garcia cited Donaire's finesse and pointed the fighter's decision to drop his much criticized one-punch salvo.

WITH SUEYTA OPEN Dr. Jose Mendoza (left), president of the Sta. Lucia East Tenpin Bowling Association (Stenba), leads officers of the Philippine Bowling Congress in the ceremonial roll-off opening the 16th Stenba Open Championships at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall bowling center in Cainta, Rizal, on Saturday. With Mendoza are (from right) Dr. Ronnie Mendoza, PBC vice president Linda Pastor and lawyer Hasanain de Leon, director; and Poting Bunsi, treasurer. PBC president Ernesto "Bel" Lopa (inset) delivered an inspirational talk during the opening rites. The Stenba Open will run up to Oct. 14. Cash prizes worth more than P400,000 await winners.

Manzano-Benitez rules Battle of Champs beach volley

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Pangasinan-Ifi Jennifer Manzano and Cindy Benitez disposed of Rizal Technological (R-Tech) Jessa Aranda and Jonalie Sanchez, 21-8, 21-8, in the finals to rule the 2012 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Battle of Champions Friday at the provincial capitol ground.

Manzano, who earned her sixth title in the Petron-volleyball series, took the second-leg crown with Benitez and Mia.

Manzano, a graduate of De La Salle-Dasmariñas and now the assistant coach of the school's women's varsity team, and Benitez, a former University of the Cordilleras (UC) Lady Jaguars, made it to the finals by whipping Pangasinan-Ifi's Melanie Carino and Cassandra Dela in the semifinals, 21-14, 21-11.

Manzano and Benitez will represent the country in the World Universities in Russia in July.

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BUSINESS

BSP to regulate in-house funding schemes

Preemptive move to avoid property price bubble

By Ma. Isolin V. Baroa

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is drawing up policies to regulate the proliferation of in-house financing schemes, a popular means of aiding prospective buyers of real estate assets.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said monetary authorities were reviewing in-house financing activities in the events particularly their extent and economic impact, to avoid an asset price bubble. The review will serve as the basis for the appropriate regulations to be implemented.

Tetangco said the review was being led by the BSP and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC regulates financing companies, while the BSP oversees the overall credit and liquidity situation in the economy.

"A closer look at in-house financing schemes is necessary if there is excessive funding [that could cause a bubble]," Tetangco told the forum.

In the ongoing review, regulators wanted to find out the volume of transactions accounted for by in-house financing companies as well as their credit standards.

Tetangco said working closely with the SEC, together with other government agencies that are members of the Financial Stability Coordinating Council (FSCC), was necessary given that the BSP has no regulatory power over financing companies.

He said in-house financing schemes were one of the subjects being discussed by the FSCC at its an emergency mtg in the wake financial sector was concerned. Other issues included activities related to the sale of securities.

"The FSCC is tasked to identify areas of looming pressures and we take pro-active measures before these risks spill over," Tetangco said in a speech during a convention of finance executives last Friday.

The move to look into the activities of financing companies was in line with efforts of the

BSP B2

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Biz Buzz:** Life after GMA 7 /B4

■ **BDO completes sale** of P5-B deposit certificates /B2

■ **14,000 Pinoys lost** jobs in H1, data show /B8

■ **PH in 'demographic sweet spot,' says CLSA** study /B2-1

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Oct. 5, 2012
41.430

STOCK MARKET
Oct. 5, 2012
3.9

Stocks seen testing 5,590 mark

All-time-high week's breakout to unravel investigative drive to a surge in foreign inflows. The major local stocks index is seen testing 5,600 this week.

Last week, the main share Philippine Stock Exchange index (as per 1.15 percent to 5,408.64 on trade hopes that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will ease monetary policies and revive local economic growth momentum.

"With the market successful in recording the 5,400 levels, continue to expect an assault to the 5,600 levels in the week

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BDO completes sale of ₱5-B deposit certificates

By Doris C. Dumlao

BDO Unibank has completed a ₱5-billion fund-raising from the issuance of long-term deposit certificates on the back of strong demand from yield-seeking investors.

BDO announced late Friday that it had closed the offering of long-term negotiable certificates of deposit (LTNCDs) a day ahead of the original schedule "due to oversubscription from retail and institutional investors."

The LTNCDs will mature in seven years after the issue date and carry a coupon rate of 5.25 percent a year. Interest will be paid quarterly and will be tax-exempt for individual investors if held for more than five years. The settlement date is on Oct. 15.

"The LTNCDs will support the bank's medium-term growth objectives and help lengthen the maturity profile of its deposit base," BDO said in a statement.

The securities are covered by deposit insurance with the PDIC up to a maximum amount of P500,000 per depositor.

While the LTNCDs cannot be prematurely redeemed, they are negotiable and can be sold to the secondary market or other investors. By using the LTNCD structure, which is cut-free because of the long term, banks can offer lower yields to clients.

Deutsche Bank's Manila branch and UBP, Ltd. acted as joint lead arrangers and selling agents for the LTNCD, while BDO and BDO Private Bank were the other selling agents.

BDO, the largest bank in the country, is controlled by the family of tycoon Henry Sy.

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MOTOR VEHICLES - Contact Person: Atty. Annabel Lucot 4260
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BSP

From page B1

BSP to caution banks against excessive real estate lending.

Last July the BSP directed banks to review the status of their exposure to the real estate sector and ensure that the new loans within prudent levels.

In particular, the BSP said banks should review lending to those intended for individuals and loans given to residential housing developers in the construction of "mid-rise to high-rise condominiums," banks are required to keep their real estate exposure at a maximum 20 percent of their loan portfolios.

Previously, only commercial loans to property developers were included in the computation of real estate exposure.

Borrowers from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that outstanding housing loans extended by thrift, universal and commercial banks to the tourism amounted to P181.57 billion as of the end of the first quarter, up 11 percent from P192 billion the previous year.

Nonperforming real estate loans, or those on which payment has remained unpaid for a certain period following maturity, accounted for 3.6 percent of total real estate loans, although relatively negligible, the 3.6 percent was higher compared with the average NPL ratio for all types of loans, which was just about 2 percent.

Stocks

From page B1

ahead, though the market appears tired and in need of a much-awaited correction," said Jonathan Barufaldi, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Unibank.

But a break below the 5,200 levels could call for further losses toward the 5,200 levels in the near term, Barufaldi said.

Gregg Arthur Ilag, an analyst at AB Capital Securities, said that on the technical side, the index might test the "strong" resistance at 5,300. "Oscillators are near the oversold territory, which may prompt a pullback for the near term after it hits resistance. However, lower levels are at 5,400 (76.4 percent) and 5,350 (61.8 percent)," he said.

Ilag said the stock market saw new trading at previous valuations relative to its peers that this should continue over the long term as corporate profits grow, Doris C. Dumlao

The Toyota Caravan rolls back into town!

Toyota to give amazing offers at the Bonifacio Global City

Toyota Motor Philippines brings you once again the Toyota Caravan! Yes, it is back in town and the discounts are bigger than ever! This 8-day exclusive event is happening from October 5-12, 2012, 10am to 9pm at 34th Street cor 9th Avenue, Bonifacio Global City (Beside Mercado near Lexus Manila Inc.)

A whopping additional discount of up to P250,000.

Visit the Toyota Caravan and get amazing offers and the best value when you purchase your brand new Toyota! Getting a discount is as easy as walking through the door because all visitors receive an instant discount of P5,000. Next, test drive any Toyota vehicle available on site and you'll get an additional discount of up to P150,000!

To give you even more thrills, you can trade in your old car for a new Toyota and get a chance to clear additional savings of up to P50,000. There's more! If you're a current Toyota owner, you also get a Loyalty Discount of up to P25,000 when you purchase a new Innova, Vios (except Vios 1.3J...) Limited & Based on Corolla Altis, all these amazing savings can be utilized for outright cash discounts, insurance payments, LTO registration or chattel mortgage fee when you visit any Toyota dealership from October 5-31, 2012. As a final bonus, customers who place a reservation at the Toyota Caravan get a chance to win P100,000 in the daily Reservation Raffle! All in all, that's savings of up to P250,000—the biggest discounts in the history of Toyota Motor Philippines!

A chance to win a Vios or an Innova.

On top of all these great deals, you also have an additional treat – The Toyota's Best Sellers Raffle Promo which was launched during the opening of the Toyota Caravan. In this promo, Toyota is raffling off two of its best-selling models, the Innova and the Vios, already customers who will purchase any Toyota car from October 5-November 30, 2012! A total of 15 units (3 Innova and 6 Vios) shall be given away. The grand draw will be held on December 17, 2012.

Fun-filled experience for you and the whole family.

And all these aren't enough to keep the energy on a high, Toyota has also lined up fun activities for the family and customers of all ages. Go to the Area 86 at the Toyota Caravan and join the 86 Tamiya RC Competition from October 5-7 for a chance to win limited edition Toyota merchandise and a P40,000 worth PROMDI! A special car show has also been put together for everyone to see various cool Toyota vehicles. Present at the show are compact models of Vios and Altis. In addition to this, witness a legend uncovered as "Bill" showcases the Toyota 86 (Aero, TRD and standard models)!

This year's Toyota Caravan promises to be the biggest one yet. With Toyota vehicles on display – the Vios, Corolla Altis, Camry, Innova, Hilux, Fortuner and the 86 are ready to wind their stuff and show you what fun driving is all about!

So what are you waiting for? Drop by the Toyota Caravan from October 5-12, 2012 and get big, big savings! Now is definitely the best time to buy a Toyota!

TOYOTA CARAVAN OFFERS ALSO AVAILABLE WHEN YOU VISIT ANY TOYOTA PROVINCIAL DEALER!

Life after GMA 7

AS SOON as businessman **Manuel V. Pangilinan** saw that a prospective P12.5-billion deal to take over the "Kapuso" network, GMA 7 was crumbling, MVP saw it as God's sign that he should instead focus on getting his "Kapatid" network TV 5 in good shape. **Bidhaa** sources said. But how can he plug the P4-billion financial hemorrhage of a challenged television?

For starters, a media analyst from a foreign investment group said TV 5 must build up its pool of young talents, seeing many of the talents signed up by the network—while among the best in the industry—may no longer be too attractive to a TV viewership that increasingly favors younger faces. The most popular young talents are already tied up with either "Kapuso" or "Kapatid" because as soon as MVP got his hands into TV 5, the two leading players made sure most of their best talents would have sufficient incentive not to jump ship. As guarding not on some of them will only add to TV5's bleeding. Another option seen is to develop homegrown talents, and this is not impossible given that MVP has the resources to be a star maker.

Meanwhile, the collapse of the discussions to set the end of the world for GMA 7. If the announcement behind the network is still looking for a golden parachutist, they are not bereft of suitors. One of them, not too long ago, had indicated interest to buy GMA 7 at a higher sales price valuation but payable in a combination of cash and kind (shares of stocks). We won't be surprised to see GMA 7 talking to this long-time suitor again if they are not yet doing so now.

On the other hand, there are quarters who refuse to believe that the collapse of the deal was due to regulatory risk-sharing and "disempowerment" issues. GMA 7 reportedly even agreed to give the MVP group one year to resolve the congressional squawks and that MVP was "agreeable" to the idea and find the "disempowerment" had already been agreed upon by both parties early on.

Those who say (pabor MVP) was indeed "agreeable" to the regulatory risks but not to pay for the entire cost of it. What was referred to as the "disempowerment" that became a deal-breaker was not necessarily the issue pertained to a percentage of the total deal size (which has been fixed) but a stipulation for that all balance sheet cost of making sure that the deal will proceed. Unfortunately, it didn't. — *Dave C. Dumlao*

New alliance

ON THE other side of the fence, could ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.'s capital restructuring be a prelude to the entry of a new strategic investor? This is what many are speculating, specially as news about such controversial transaction with 1) the recent investment of Globe Telecom president **Ernest Cu** that synergies are being explored with the "Kapamilya" network and 2) another fund-raising initiative by Rohs Corp. soon after its acquisition of the Philippine Stock Exchange following the spike in the shares of both Rohs Inc., which saw its shares double in value in the past month.

With ABS-CBN planning to call its existing shareholders' meeting preferred stocks equivalent to 16.7 percent of its total shares, the network seems to be opening its doors to new investors, albeit in a way that strengthens the firewall against any hostile takeover. The signal is that the Lopezes will want to retain majority control. On the other hand, because Globe is partly foreign-owned (by AsiaTel), there are restrictions on foreign stake ownership in the Philippines. So if the discussions are serious, it's not far-fetched that partner conglomerate (s) also will surface.

Meanwhile, after the PLDT-Digitel Telecommunications consolidation, it's also plausible that Ilac Ayalas will want to join forces with the remaining telecom players. Some of the remaining players has a market share significant enough to be a game-changer for now, but consolidating assigned frequencies is part of challenger Globe's game plan. — *Boom C. Dumlao*

Buyers beware

THEY may both carry the Swift name, but only one refers to the processed meat unit of listed RFM Corp. that is up for sale.

RFM issued the clarification

soon after it was reported that Swift Foods Inc., which used to be the chicken unit of RFM Corp., is now in serious thoughts that RFM was the same as the Swift brand being considered for purchase by Century Canning Corp.

In a letter to the PSE, RFM said that RFC was no longer part of the RFM group nor owned by the majority shareholders of RFM. The Swift brand, however, and the Swift processed and canned meat business remained with RFM, and Century was interested in buying both the brand and the business.

"This transaction therefore is not connected with the other corporate info, which used to be the chicken company of the group but was later spun off and sold to the public," the disclosure said. — *Jhon Aceron-Bonifacio*

Unique casino opens

MIDAS Hotel and Casino—Manila's newest leisure and gaming destination—formally opened its doors to casino patrons last week. The former Hyatt Hotel beside the Japanese Embassy along Roxas Boulevard features "timeless-feel" gaming floors to the delight of non-smoking casino patrons.

Aside from conditioning food and drinks, the opening night was filled with glee and glamour with the surprise appearance of Hollywood heartthrob **Jim Illman**. Rumors say Midas was the official Manila residence of the High School Musical star. — *Boom C. Dumlao*

Speaking of which ...

THE YOUNG Hollywood sensation became a de facto Philippine tourism ambassador when he raved about his recent trip to Albay during a recent guesting in the popular **Ellen DeGeneres** show.

Illian spoke of helicopter rides around Mayon Volcano, a thrilling all-terrain vehicle ride featured on his official Facebook page, and kinds on top of Mayon's lava bed.

While in Albay, Illian was billeted at the plush Misibis Bay Resort in Cagsawa Island. Both Midas and Misibis Bay are owned by Bicolano businessman and ecotourism proponent Tobby Co. — *Boom C. Dumlao*

Topic 'insertion' floors Meds

TECHNICAL officials of the National Economic and Development Authority were surprised (to put it mildly) when a seemingly unscheduled topic was brought to the floor during one of their regular meetings last week.

According to a Bidhaa source, the members of Neda's Investment Coordination Committee technical review team were floored when, as they were about to tackle updates on the public-private partnership (PPP) programs, Public Works Secretary **Rogelio Singson** took the floor to extol the virtues of Mega Pacific Investment Corp.'s NLEX-SLEX connector road project. (Singson was once employed by MPIC as the head of rail infrastructure.)

This was, of course, alien to the process usually attended the "hill" Regulatory Board meeting and objected to the final approval of San Miguel Corp.'s rival (and supposedly higher-priced) Cavite-PNCC Alignment road project. Parenthetic that no less than **President Aquino** has remarked on how both projects for approved justification.

According to our source, normal procedures of unscheduled proposals should require presentation like MPIC to submit documents along with the DPWH endorsement and support of the DPWH proper prior materials which, we were told, looked very much like it was prepared by... another party.

After the presentation, the technical team, unprepared and unaware of the intervention of the DPWH secretary, were asked to endorse the project for approval of the Cabinet committee (CC, Bidhaa).

"We could have aren't any cheaps and manipulated events on the straight and narrow path, both." — *Boom C. Dumlao*

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14K Pinoys lost jobs in H1, data show

Front page 4

MZS continued to grow slower in the first quarter as the decline of employment in agriculture pulled down gains in industry and services.

For every 1,000 employed workers in Metro Manila, 81 new hires were added but 78 quit or were fired.

Among 16 industries covered, job growth was greatest in mining and quarrying (9.8 percent) and professional, scientific and technical services (5.3 percent).

On the other hand, job loss was highest in "other service activities" (10.6 percent) and education (5.2 percent).

The data is part of the BLES' survey of 700 large corporations in BCR, which were drawn from the 2011 edition of the Securities and Exchange Commission's list of "Top 25,000 Corporations."

Sunset Hours are Happy Hours at Buddha-Bar Manila

You probably have a hundred idyllic ways to while away the gnawing rush hour traffic after backbreaking office work—and having a few sips of your favorite drink is probably a great treat.

With indulgence being Buddha-Bar Manila's conquering ideal to satiate every cosmopolitan urbanite, the contemporary-lounge-bistro is unveiling a never-heard-of-before deal for the much anticipated happy hour—every customer can avail of 50% off on all regular drinks and signature cocktails from Mondays to Saturdays, from 3pm to 7pm (beginning on October 8).

The sun may be setting right on the first few minutes of this offering, but the delights sought by your favorite Buddha-Bar Margarita, Mojito, Strawberry Sakeitini, Apple Sour Tea, beer, or wine at a discounted price is just the dawn of more satisfying treats. Customers can also choose from Buddha-Bar Manila's wide array of delicacies that perfectly fuse the strong Asian flavors with delicate French influences. From its mouthwatering appetizers like Lemongrass Beef Satay or Spicy Fish Cake with Mango Salad, scrumptious main courses such as Singapore Rich Prawn Paella or Braised Stuffed Tofu, delectable steamed vegetables and hot Buddha-Bar noodles for sides, to an assortment of sushi and sashimi, one can choose to have a lighter table fare or a complete dinner feast—pairing with their choice of chilled bubblies or wines.

Unsurprisingly, Buddha-Bar Manila's worldwide spectrum of luxurious spots to just a part of the overall experience. As a franchise of France's internationally acclaimed leisure destination, Buddha-Bar Manila boasts of the distinct sophistication that has since won the crowds of Monte Carlo, New Prague, Budapest, Moscow, Dubai, Beirut, Cairo and Tokyo to elegant interior, artistic and embellished with subdued ambient lightening, ornate fixtures, and eclectic Asian decor, is enveloped with the signature soothing Buddha-Bar music, in effect, having a glass of wine, cider, or vodka during Sunset Hours will be an enchanting treat.

Alleviate stress by simply heading to Picar Place along Kalayaan Avenue, Makati, where Buddha-Bar Manila has its picnic home, and with the unmatched Buddha-Bar Manila offers. Sunset Hours is a refreshing pleasure in a captivating haven, elevating every urbanite's gratifying experience.

Buddha-Bar Manila's Sunset Hours happens every Monday to Saturday from 3 PM to 7 PM. Customers can avail of 50% off on all regular drinks and signature cocktails. Buddha-Bar Manila is located at Picar Place Kalayaan Avenue, Makati and is open for dinner, week from 12 noon to 2 AM (1 AM on weekends). To inquire or reserve for parties, events, and other gatherings, call (02) 856 67 19/856 67 20.

For more information, visit **www.buddhabarmanila.com**

Ford sales in PH down 21% in first 9 months

Local supply affected by flooding in Thailand

By Roy T. Ostrondro

FORD Group Philippines says in January-September sales drop 21 percent as its new vehicle models become available only starting September due to the impact of the flooding in Thailand last year.

The company sold 5,627 units in the nine-month period this year against 7,129 units in the same period in 2011. Ford assistant vice president Anita Valenda Flores said.

"September is the first full month of availability of all four of our newly launched Ford vehicles (Ranger, Focus, Explorer with EcoBoost and the iconic Mustang sports car). In the beginning of the year, we reported a decline in our sales due to the impact of the Thai floods late last year," she said.

Ford Philippines said under that in September sales were flat at 964 units as against the 968 units sold in the same month last year.

Month-on-month, Ford Philippines' retail sales jumped 68 percent to its 574 units in August—representing one of the company's all-time highest sales months in the Philippines.

The company said September sales got an extra boost with the first full month of availability for all four newly launched Ford vehicles in the Philippines.

"Our showrooms across the country are now packed with the widest lineup of vehicles that Ford has ever offered in the Philippines, which is really helping boost to the appeal of our brand to so many more in Ford customers," Ford Philippines president Randy Kroger said.

In September, Ford began deliveries of the new Mustang, which is available in 3.7L Mustang V6 Premium and 5.0L Mustang V8 GT Premium variants. Ford said 48 units of the sports car were being delivered to customers during the September.

The company said the all-new Ford Explorer continues to define the SUV segment and in September delivered retail sales of 118 units, representing its best monthly performance since its October 2011 launch.

Ford said it would culminate its "All-New Power Start & Done & Win & " campaign this month, welcoming for the Fusion hybrid all next week and one participant winning an all-new Ford Focus Titanium 5

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We are pleased to announce the following:

A. Change of corporate name of **JTH Davies Holdings, Inc.** to

STI Education Systems Holdings, Inc.

Our New PSE Stock Trading Symbol is "STI" and PSE Alias is "STI_Holdings"

B. Procedure for Updating of Stock Certificates

1. The following amendments to the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation will be reflected on the new stock certificates:
   a. Change of the Corporation's name to STI Education Systems Holdings, Inc.; and
   b. Increase of the Corporation's authorized capital stock from 49,951,000,000 (1,110,000,000 shares with PhP0.50 par value per share) to 99,951,000,000 (10,000,000,000 shares with PhP0.50 par value per share).

   The Corporation shall issue new stock certificates bearing the Corporation's new name and new authorized capital stock for subsequent issuances and other transactions (i.e., replacement of old stock certificates evidencing outstanding shares held by the stockholders) requiring the cancellation of the old stock certificates and the issuance of new stock certificates.
2. The new stock certificates will be available for replacement of the old stock certificates beginning at least a month after the SEC approval of the increase of the ACS. The Stockholders of the Corporation are requested to pick up their new stock certificates from the office of the Corporate Secretary or the duly Appointed Stock Transfer Agent (STA) Business Days after the surrender of the old stock certificates. The address of the Corporation's Stock Transfer Agent is as follows:

   RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION – Stock Transfer Office

   Ground Floor, Binondo Branch, 221 Ongpin Building, Ben Tiac Street, Plaza Lorenzo, Binondo, Manila

   Contact Persons:

Name	Email Address	Contact Number
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

3. Stockholders must submit the following documents before the new certificates will be released to them:
   a. Original Stock Certificate — Stockholders will not be charged any fee for having their stock certificates replaced. But, if a stockholder desires to split a stock certificate into more than one certificate, he shall be charged PhP100.00 for every new certificate to be issued in excess of one. In the case of stockholders holding several stock certificates, they may instruct the Transfer Agent to consolidate their certificates into one new stock certificate.
   b. Duly accomplished Specimen Signature Card.
   c. Photocopy of two (2) valid identification Cards of the stockholder of record, one of which must be a government-issued card, with the stockholder's photocopy and specimen signature. The original identification Cards must be presented for validation. Individual stockholders must issue an authorization letter designating his/her authorized representative and submit said letter to the Transfer Agent.
   d. Corporate Stockholders must issue a Secretary's Certificate or Board Resolution designating its authorized representative to receive on their behalf the new stock certificate.
   e. The authorized representative of the individual or corporate stockholder must present his/her original Identification Card and submit to the Transfer Agent a photocopy of his/her Identification Card.
   f. In case of lost stock certificate(s), the stockholder is required to submit an Affidavit of Loss and an Affidavit of Publication from a newspaper of general circulation certifying that the publication was made once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. A simple cut-out of the published details of stock certificates must accompany the Affidavit of Publication. Replacement of lost stock certificate(s) will be made after one (1) year from the last date of publication. If the stockholder wishes to expedite the replacement of the lost stock certificate(s), a surety bond issued by a reputable insurance company must be submitted to the company insuring 100% of the market value of the lost shares.
4. Within three (3) months from the approval by SEC of the increase of the authorized capital stock to 10 billion shares, old certificates may still be traded at the Philippine Stock Exchange. After the said period, old certificates must be replaced with new ones before they can be traded.

(Original Signed)
ARSENIO C. CABRERA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

BUSINESS

14K Pinoys lost jobs in H1, data show

Most of affected workers were in real estate sector

By Reynel W. Domingo

SOME 14,000 Filipinos lost their jobs in the first semester this year as some 1,000 companies closed shop or laid off workers because of the economic slowdown, according to the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES).

Data from the BLES show that from January to June, 14,034 workers were "permanently displaced" or 1,019 more suffered financial or organizational problems as well as lack or demand or saw materials for their products.

Most of the affected workers were in real estate, renting and business activities (5,301), wholesale's, wholesale and retail (2,575), and manufacturing (1,989).

In the manufacturing sector, most of those laid off worked for employers doing business in food and beverages, wearing apparel, and fabricated metal products other than machinery and equipment.

Among those companies that resorted to permanent closure or retrenchment, most of them did so because of the need to reorganize or downsize and rationalize redundant positions (with 628 listed), lack of market or slump in demand for their outputs (210), and financial losses (189).

Workers who got displaced due to decisions made by these groups of firms numbered 6,130; 3,942, and 1,277, respectively.

In terms of location, more than two-thirds (69 percent or 9,724 individuals) of the displaced workers in the first semester were found in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Also, 24 percent or 3,392 workers were based in Central Luzon and 11 percent or 1,597 workers were from Central Visayas, which includes the province of Cebu.

Related data from the BLES show that the number of jobs among the top large-scale private establishments in the country declined by 1.2 percent to 1,111,000 in the first quarter of 2012 from 1,124,000 in the same period last year.

Manufacturing, which accounted for the biggest share of employment among the top establishments, posted a 2.3-percent decline in employment to 555,000 from 568,000 in the first quarter of 2011.

Trade and repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods, which ranked second in terms of employment, posted a 1.2-percent decline to 284,000 from 288,000.

Financial intermediation, which ranked third, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 122,000 from 123,000.

Real estate, renting and business activities, which ranked fourth, posted a 1.1-percent increase to 120,000 from 119,000.

Transportation, storage and communication, which ranked fifth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Hotels and restaurants, which ranked sixth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Construction, which ranked seventh, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Electricity, gas and water supply, which ranked eighth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Mining and quarrying, which ranked ninth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Agriculture, hunting and forestry, which ranked tenth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Fishing, which ranked eleventh, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Other services, which ranked twelfth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Public administration and defense, which ranked thirteenth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Education, which ranked fourteenth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Health and social work, which ranked fifteenth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Private households with employed persons, which ranked sixteenth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Extraterritorial organizations and bodies, which ranked seventeenth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Unclassified, which ranked eighteenth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

Total, which ranked nineteenth, posted a 1.1-percent decline to 30,000 from 31,000.

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Empowering mayors to help farmers

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

CAN a town or city mayor lead a community to uplift the plight of farmers?

To many, the answer is a resounding 'no'. That is why there is a significant clamor for the 25 new agricultural extension workers to come under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA). These same people unfairly place much of the blame for our country's agriculture failure on the mayors. They say that several mayors use the municipal agricultural extension workers for non-agricultural purposes.

The good news is that many other mayors deploy their extension workers effectively. They are thus able to fulfill their mandated role of pushing the countrywide agricultural development. Since the...

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COMMENTARY

...passage of the Local Government Autonomy Code, it is now the local governments and not the DA, which are the employers. They become more responsible to them than the DA, and can therefore more effectively deliver agricultural support services.

The bad news is that there are still many mayors who fit the cynical stereotype of exploiting agricultural extension workers.

But one cannot blame these mayors completely, simply because they have not been properly empowered.

Synergia, led by Director Vevie Andrada, awarded Mandala Conference, shows us excellent models of mayor empowerment.

During its 20th anniversary celebration last July, 18 impressive gains in educational attainment were highlighted due to the involvement of the different sectors in the community in attaining the educational objectives. It was not just the Department of Education (DepEd), but the combined contributions of the DepEd, the parents, other government bodies, NGOs, and others across that accounted for these success. It does "take a village to raise a child."

But analyzing the many successes are the mayors. The did not happen accidentally. Synergia launched a program to systematically empower these mayors for effective educational governance.

Former Mayor Jesse Robredo's investments in mayor empowerment were highlighted. Measurable criteria and achievement targets were identified and developed with the mayor's own contributions for each municipality. Good performance was rewarded accordingly.

Robredo then used the agreed criteria for very successful "Good Housekeeping" rewards by deserving municipalities after he became DILG Secretary.

A few months before his death, I talked with Robredo about mayor empowerment for agricultural governance. He supported this wholeheartedly, but died before he could implement it.

The DA 2013 budget went down doubled to P180.5 billion compared to a few years earlier. Per 2013, the planned budget for DA, including its attached agencies, is P75.9 billion. DA and only 60 percent of its budget last year, leaving P45.2 billion unspended.

We recommend that an adequate portion of this budget be allocated to excellence program empowerment mayors for agricultural governance. An outside expert group can be utilized to generate creative and effective investments criteria.

The Synergia model and Robredo's inspiration can be modified and adapted where applicable. Orientation seminar should be conducted with governors, followed by action planning workshops on a province-wide basis with the governor, the DA, and the locally mandated governmental units under Agriculture and Fisheries Councils (AFC) participating fully.

Other suggestions may include a municipal agricultural plan with measurable criteria and achievement targets, periodic progress reports. Robredo's "Good Housekeeping" approach applied to agricultural governance, and the corresponding larger DA budget allocations for the better-managed municipalities.

Today, there is no significant program for empowering mayors for agricultural governance. This is a valuable legacy that DA should establish during the Aquino administration.

The author is chair of Agrinetwork. For inquiries and suggestions, email jgm.mail.ph_phil@yahoo.com or telefax 8522-1127.

BUSINESS

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PH in 'demographic sweet spot', says CLSA study

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES is ranking as a "demographic sweet spot" with its crop of young urban professionals seen accounting for half of the country's discretionary spending and at least a fifth of the country's economic output by 2030, based on a research by CLSA Asia-Pacific.

"With a bright outlook for the domestic economy, we project that demographic's consumption growth to outpace the rest of the Philippines by 18 percentage points in the next decade. Sustained growth in the BPO (business process outsourcing) space and the up- and -coming gaming and tourism sectors will propel this trend, especially when yuppies start buying houses and cars," CLSA said in a Philippine economics report issued last month.

The report, entitled "Here Yuppies Move Spending Class Steps Forward" authored by CLSA analysts Jacqui Evangelista and Alejandro Molina, said this crop of well-educated 25- to 34-year-olds currently account for 3 percent of the total population and 7 percent of the country's total workforce.

But while making up just 3 percent of the population, the report noted that this segment already comprised more than 20 percent of discretionary consumption, or the amount of spending outside of basic needs like food, shelter and clothing. This includes money spent on luxury items, entertainment and other non-essential goods and services.

Studies in the past year on optimism in the US that gave rise to a generation of baby boomers, the record noted, that a sense of national confidence after the fall of the Marcos regime had led to a hike in Philippine births, giving rise to this demographic sweet spot.

To come up with this report, CLSA surveyed 400 Filipino yuppies. On average, they make P471,000 ($11,000) per year which is 2.5 times the per capita gross national income. With the yuppies' savings rate at around 23 percent, CLSA estimated their total inter-spending capacity at up to P955 billion ($22.5 billion).

"Our findings revealed that as the political environment improves, yuppie appetite shift to long-term, significant investment assets such as property and vehicles, making this group's economic impact more pronounced and permanent," the team found.

By 2030, CLSA has projected this demographic to contribute 50 percent of the country's discretionary expenditure and at least 20 percent of total gross domestic product.

"In fact members could not suppress an instant climb from sensation purposely to spend will be a huge boost to local firms with exposure to

PSE B2-4

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For Evaristo Narvaez Jr., Chairman of Jackbilt Industries, Inc., being a pioneer in the construction business means staying ahead of the competition. In 1968, the company pioneered the manufacturing of various commercial concrete products like hollow blocks, T-blocks, hollow core, etc. Since then, Jackbilt has been the leading supplier of construction materials for famous projects like Clark Air Base, Hotel Nikko and Manila North Tollway. But Jackbilt sees the need to continuously

do this in a very short time. We look forward to partnering with BPI Leasing for our future requirements to serve the growing needs of the construction industry."

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owners' confidence in us as we were able to immediately and constantly update our construction equipment which enabled us to keep up with the construction industry's exponential growth in the past decade."

In 2008, Jackbilt acquired more machineries through BPI leasing. "It made good business sense to upgrade and expand as the construction sector was rapidly growing. Thanks to BPI Leasing, we were able to

expand if the firm is to stay on top. That's why Jackbilt has tasked to leasing to help the company attain its goal. According to Narvaez, *"leasing is a much better option because it does not require real estate collateral. Plus, it's more cost effective."* And when it comes to leasing, Narvaez trusts BPI Leasing.

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Evaristo Narvaez Jr.
Chairman

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P175B in capital raised via stock market in 9 mos

By Doris C. Dumlao

CAPITAL raising at the Philippine Stock Exchange reached a record high P174.97 billion in the first nine months, as the upbeat investor sentiment encouraged a number of companies to either go public or widen public ownership.

Net foreign buying in the stock market from January to September also surged to P91.257 billion from P10.62 billion in the same period last year, as more offshore investors bought into the Philippine growth story.

The surge in foreign inflows helped drive up the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange index by 22.3 percent during the period.

"The market's sustained increase has generated attractive valuations for listed firms to raise capital in the exchange this year," PSE president Hans Sicat said in a statement.

The P174.97 billion worth of capital raised through the stock market in the first nine months exceeded the full-year 2014 figure of P167.58 billion.

Three initial public offerings were held at the stock market during the period.—those of GT Capital Holdings Inc., East West Banking Corp. and Cebu Corp. Capital raising was likewise buoyed by the follow-on offerings of San Miguel Corp. and First Gen Corp., and the stock rights offerings of PDG Realty Inc., Belle Corp., Alsons Gold Resources Corp. and Philweb Corp.

The PSE said the overall trading activity was robust during the first nine months of the year on account of a liberal round of quantitative easing in the United States, coupled with the country's sound economic environment. On Sept. 13, the Federal Reserve announced it would purchase additional $40 billion worth of agency mortgage-backed securities a month to further stimulate the US economy.

On Oct. 4, the PSE index staged a new high at 7,993.79. Total value turnover for the nine-month period reached P1.311 trillion, 23 percent higher than the level registered in the same period last year. Total value turnover at the local bourse amounted to P1.42 trillion in 2013.

The combined market capitalization of listed issues to the PSE at the end of the nine-month period rose by 20.3 percent to P18.84 trillion from a year ago.

In terms of sectoral indices, the financials index emerged the best performer in the nine-month period, climbing by 41.5 percent. This was followed by the property index with a 40 percent rise. The holding firms sector gained 28.2 percent, followed by the industrial sector which increased by 21 percent. The services sector rose by 11.6 per cent.

AGI jacks up stake in Megaworld

TYCOON Andrew Gotianun Sr. and his family Alliance Global Group Inc. property developer Megaworld Corp. is converting 61 right to buy P5.07 billion worth of underlying shares awarded to warrants held in the last three years.

AGI said the Philippine Stock Exchange-ou Friday that, with subsidiary New Town Land Partners, it had exercised 3.07 billion Megaworld warrants at the strike price of P1 per share. This allowed AGI to acquire additional common shares in Megaworld at a discount. The company's last traded price on Friday was P2.36 per share.

The transaction allowed AGI to raise its stake in Megaworld to 68.7 percent from 59.57 percent, company investor relations officer John Eus said.

The issuance of new common shares of Megaworld to AGI to cover the warrants exercised will dilute holdings of all other shareholders by about 12 percent.

The warrants exercised by AGI were part of the 4.1 billion bonus detachable warrants issued by Megaworld in 2009. Megaworld then gave four warrants for every five existing common shares at no cost to all those who subscribed to the company's P5.3-billion rights offering at that time. Holders of the warrants were given until June 16, 2015 to exercise their right to buy the underlying shares.

The proceeds from the exercise of the warrants were committed by Megaworld to finance its capital and project expenditures from 2012 to 2015.

Based on documents, P4 billion out of the proceeds would be used to finance the development of a business process outsourcing (BPO) center in Bonifacio Global City to Pasay City.

Jose Mari Lanzon, research head at Lampos Lanzon & Co., said the exercise of the warrants by AGI was supported as the holding firm was "in the money" from the transaction as current market price was more than double the exercise price. Also, he said, AGI would opt to look for new buyers of the block. "It's a decent block to sell and to attract investors," he said. "But they will need to monitor it as quickly as possible."

Doris C. Dumlao

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Treasury to put up 5 new offices throughout PH

By Rocelle M. Domingo

THE BUREAU of the Treasury will spend an initial P67.5 million to build new offices in different parts of the country.

Deputy Treasurer Edmundo S. Mendiola said in an interview that the BTr decided to build the new facilities to save on rent and strengthen its presence throughout the country.

Now that the regional offices will have their own premises, "we will avoid problems caused by a lack of budgetary provisions for increases in rent," Mendiola said. "Sometimes, when the happens, we are forced to relocate, and relocation may mean a deterioration of accommodations."

He explained that the regional offices, as tenants, would move to new locations that might not be as good as the previous ones.

Qualified contractors have until Oct. 22 to submit their bids for a package of five projects with its approved budget of P19.8 million each.

Treasury offices will be put up in Tuguegarao City in Cagayan, San Fernando City in Pampanga, Legazpi City in Albay, Iloilo City in Iloilo and Butuan City in Agusan del Norte.

"Our goal is to provide all our regional offices with their own premises, so this is just the first of such projects," Mendiola said.

Smart cuts mobile Internet rates

By Paolo S. Hosaka

SMART Communications has reduced the prices of its Long Term Evolution (LTE) mobile plans as it tries to undercut rival Globe Telecom, which also recently unveiled its own LTE services.

The mobile unit of diversified carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) announced over the weekend that it would serve office mobility LTE plans at P1,749 for 30 gigabytes (GB) worth of bandwidth.

Smart also introduced a new LTE-enabled pocket Wifi device that could be linked to several mobile devices at the same time.

"Smart LTE Plus 1749 gives Filipinos a choice. This is one LTE service which exceeds current LTE speeds," said Lloyd Mendiola of Smart Broadband Internet Data Services.

Smart's LTE plans offer mobile connection speeds of up to 42 megabits per second (Mbps), significantly higher than the speeds available on previous third-generation (3G) mobile offerings.

With the introduction of the new P1,749 a-month plan, Smart also announced that its previous P1,500 monthly LTE service would get a boost, giving subscribers 22 GB worth of surfing, up from the previous 8 GB.

The data caps for all plans will take effect next January. Until then, users will be able to surf as much as they want without incurring additional costs.

Basic LTE plans will be available through USB dongles that connect to laptop or desktop computers. Subscribers can opt to upgrade to mobile WiFi devices for an additional one-time fee of P2,000.

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PH

From page B1

this story," the report said, noting that the use of the sector would be largely beneficial to the consumer gaming and property sectors.

CLSA top stock picks based on the Filipino supportive pure targets are the following: Ayala Land Inc. (ITM:SM), Alliance Global Group Inc. (FM:SM), JG Summit (JGS), SM Investments (SMIN) and SM Prime (FP:SM). Of these top picks for the Buzz, CLSA has already hit the price target.

Overall, the study noted that 28 percent of its 13.6 million of the population belong to the 25-34 age group, of which about 32 percent or 2.8 million reside in the National Capital Region and about 2.7 million are employed. Between 2008 and 2010, the research noted that the people base grew by 13 percent, comprising the 4 percent growth in the labor force in the same period.

"Confirming this are findings were that while 36 percent of our total respondents currently own a piece of real estate property and 42 percent own at least one vehicle, more than 78 percent are still looking to purchase property and 60 percent want to buy another vehicle in the short to middle term," the study said.

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Ateneo Family Business Management 2012

CAPITALIZING ON THE FAMILY'S CAPITAL
By Jacob Salvacion & Dr. Carmen Yu / October 15, 2012
How do you make the most out of your business capital? Learn how to apply financial engineering for your family business, alternative budgeting for cash resources, and how to identify profitable business investments.

HIRING, DEVELOPING & RETAINING TALENT FOR THE FAMILY BUSINESS
By Karen Yan / October 16, 2012
How do you find talent outside the family? How do you develop and make them stay?

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE FAMILY BUSINESS
By Johnny Dee & Ria Lopez / October 17, 2012
Past success is not a guarantee of future success! Continue to grow your family business amidst challenging competition! Build the family and your key people with strategic management concepts and tools that will enable you to achieve your vision to success.

COMPENSATION IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS
By Atty. Renato Bacay / October 18, 2012
How do you decide the proper way to compensate the family members? Is it possible to create a compensation scenario that's just to all - considered, a market driven and is acceptable to all?

COACHING AND MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS
By Ruben Ancheta / October 19, 2012
Ensure a durable business legacy by developing a deep bench of leaders that will sustain your enterprise beyond you. Coaching has been aptly described by Harvard Business Review compared to all management activity, as "...the least used leadership style that makes the greatest difference. This workshop helps business owners and leaders overcome the common productivity barriers of command and control, conflict, and management by abandonment on the other. This time, it's no longer about you, but about the business you love and the people who run your business so that it will be you. And chances are, if your people there would likely quit as much earlier job as it than you can ever dream.

ESTATE PLANNING AND WILLS AND SUCCESSION
By Atty. Manuel P. Pelayo Jr. & Atty. Angel Pagar / October 20, 2012
Death is inescapable fact of life. Unfortunately, estate planning, being complex issue is such a sensitive topic that many families end up never talking or planning about it. By being clear about your intentions and what is allowed by law, you help avoid potential conflict after you're gone.

PROFESSIONALIZING THE FAMILY BUSINESS
By Jacob Salvacion / November 13, 2012
When do you bring outsiders to professionalize the family business? Learn how to set-up systems to make professional and family members work better together.

FAMILY GOVERNANCE
By Atty. Renato Bacay / November 14, 2012
In the Founder's generation, his word was law. He was the only governance structure in the family and the business ever needed. Now our families manage their shared leadership and shared ownership in the succeeding generations. Learn more about the importance of Family Governance for the Family business continuity.

CRAFTING THE FAMILY CONSTITUTION
By Tess Bacay / November 15, 2012
Family feuds? Here is a structured communication tool that can help bring about a less conflict ridden family business situation. Craft a family constitution/charter that rules, rules and policies that will foster family harmony and ensure business continuity.

MARKETING & INNOVATION IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS
By Mylen Villanueva / November 16, 2012
With increasing competition and lack of differentiation in the market, how do our companies succeed/fail? How do you stand out in your market? What is effective marketing and innovation plan will certainly generate more revenues for your firm? Grow your business by making marketing and innovation at the forefront of your strategy.

SUCCESSFUL SUCCESSION PLANNING
By Tony Salazar / November 17, 2012
Leading us to the next generation is one of the more common reasons why family businesses fail. Every family member has a stake in the successful transition of the family business to the next generation. Effectively plan for succession. Learn how family can come together to map the roadmap pass the Test Test of Business.

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LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested parties to bid for the following properties on CASH and "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS:

ITEM NO.	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1	43-sq.m. commercial lot with five (5) storey residential/ commercial building with roof deck, and improvements thereon, covered by TCT No. T-000-(01)-000004 *	Perpetual Subdivision, No. 1200 Aurelio Ave. Sto Rosario Marikina, Mega Manila	P[illegible]
2	108-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot No. 31-A-1-B) covered by TCT No. [illegible] *	Perpetual Subdivision, Brgy. Sto. Rosario, Marikina City, Mega Manila	P[illegible]
3	108-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot No. 31-A-1-B) covered by TCT No. [illegible] *		P[illegible]
4	108-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot No. 1) covered by TCT No. [illegible] *		P[illegible]
5	108-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot No. 2) covered by TCT No. [illegible] *		P[illegible]
6	108-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot No. 19) covered by TCT No. [illegible] *		P[illegible]
7	108-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot No. 18) covered by TCT No. [illegible] *		P[illegible]
8	108-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot No. 17) covered by TCT No. [illegible] *		P[illegible]
9	108-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot No. 16) covered by TCT No. [illegible] *		P[illegible]
10	108-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot No. 15) covered by TCT No. [illegible] *		P[illegible]
11	Two (2) storey residential house and building	Governor M. Juan Street, Poblete Subdivision, San Pedro, Laguna	P[illegible]
12	11.5-sq.m. parking slot (P3 No. 41) and 18.0-sq.m. covered by CCT No. 2444-1	Greenbelt Tower Condominium, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue Cor. Paseo de Roxas, Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City, Mega Manila	P[illegible]
13	11.5-sq.m. parking slot (P3 No. 47) and 18.0-sq.m. covered by CCT No. 2444-1		P[illegible]
14	12.960-sq.m. parking slot (P3 No. 52) and 18.0-sq.m. covered by CCT No. 2444-1 *		P[illegible]
15	12.96-sq.m. parking slot (P3 No. 46) and 18.0-sq.m. covered by CCT No. 2444-1		P[illegible]
16	12.96-sq.m. parking slot (P3 No. 48) and 18.0-sq.m. covered by CCT No. 2444-1		P[illegible]
17	12.96-sq.m. parking slot (P3 No. 49) and 18.0-sq.m. covered by CCT No. 2444-1		P[illegible]
18	12.96-sq.m. parking slot (P3 No. 50) and 18.0-sq.m. covered by CCT No. 2444-1	Rockwell Tower Condominium, Rockwell Center, Hidalgo Drive, Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City, Mega Manila	P[illegible]
19	107-sq.m. residential lot covered by TCT No. 30-0001 *	Nice Town 1 of Nice Town, Brgy. Sto. Tomas, Batangas	P[illegible]
20	107-sq.m. residential lot covered by TCT No. 30-0002 *		P[illegible]
21	107-sq.m. residential lot covered by TCT No. 30-0003 *		P[illegible]
22	107-sq.m. residential lot covered by TCT No. 30-0004 *		P[illegible]
23	107-sq.m. residential lot covered by TCT No. 30-0005 *		P[illegible]
24	Vacated House Unit, Titled with Mutual Recognition (Model Unit), Two (2) Cabinets, Side Other	3rd Floor Folding Area of Landbank Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati, Mega Manila	P[illegible]
25	Three contiguous parcels of commercial lots with an aggregate area of 1,000-sq.m. with Improvements consisting of Five (5) Storey Commercial Building, covered by TCT Nos. T-41966, T-41967 and T-41968 *	3/F Rockland Avenue, Caloocan City	P[illegible]
26	Two (2) contiguous parcels of commercial residential/industrial lot with an aggregate area of 1,000-sq.m., including improvements consisting of a concrete house, covered by TCT Nos. T-12557 & T-14089	Brgy. Lanao, Poblacion City	P[illegible]
27	77-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot 2-B-2-A) covered by TCT No. 11-07-(01)0000 *	Brgy. San Isidro, General Santos City	P[illegible]
28	100-sq.m. parcel of residential lot (Lot 1-A-1-A-1-A-

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Dela Rosa Island , through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to submit the following proposals:

Name of Contract	Construction of Municipal Hall
Location	Brgy. Mandaluyong, Dela Rosa Island
Brief Description	Const. of 2 units dormitory storey, 1.5 km/dr. with 2 units of 3 units canal structure
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P10,000,000.00
Contract Duration	365 cd
Name of Contract	Rehabilitation of Municipal Hall
Location	Brgy. Mandaluyong, Dela Rosa Island
Brief Description	Repair of 300m² reinforced concrete, steel, of 5,000,000 load-bearing, 10 units x deck structure and roof, bridges, canal
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P2,000,000.00
Contract Duration	120 cd

Prospective bidders should have a valid PCAB license and must be duly accredited by the BAC. They must submit a written request with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have the equipment and equipment listed in the Eligibility Forms, available for the purchase of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria in the Eligibility Check Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract are stated in the Bidding Documents as mandated by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of bids' activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance and Sale of Bidders' Packages of Plans, Specifications, Bidding Documents for Eligibility	October 1 – 25, 2012
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 1 – 25, 2012
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 1 – 25, 2012
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 26, 2012
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 26, 2012
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 29, 2012
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 5, 2012

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at municipal hall, Poblacion, Brgy. 5, Mag., upon their submission of a bid, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the Local Government Unit of Dela Rosa Island. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements, on the 5th of the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue bidding documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the Local Government Unit of Dela Rosa Island.

The Local Government Unit of Dela Rosa Island, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensation or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **MARVIN D. ARDILLA**
BAC Chairman

(PP - Posted 5 Oct)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
Asiatica Upper Road, Poblacion, Rizal Province City
Telephone Nos. 631-4142 • 631-4143 • Telefax No. 631-4144
Email No. infodpwh@yahoo.com • Website: www.dpwh.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

Construction of FO-II-A Building – Phase 2

1. The Department of Public Works and Development (DPWH) – Field Office No.II, through the General Appropriation Act 2012, intends to apply the sum of **Twenty Million Pesos (Php 20,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budgetary for contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of FO-II-A Building – Phase 2 under Project Identification No. 2010 - 000 (two thousand ten hundred and one) and is invited to submit sealed bid for same.

2. The DPWH-Field Office II-A now invites bids for the **Construction of FO-II-A Building – Phase 2**. Completion of Works is required within **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days**. Bidders should have completed within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids a contract similar to the Project, and a holder of **SMALL B Public Registration, Medium B Category**. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II - Instruction to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least seventy five percent (75%) citizenship or ownership and those organizations duly licensed by the Philippines.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **DPWH-Field Office II-A, BAC Secretariat** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from **8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00)**.

6. The DPWH – Field Office II-A will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** on **October 15, at 10:00 A.M.** which will be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **November 5, 2012 at 9:30 A.M.**, and the **BAC Opening at 9:30 AM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bid Data Sheet.

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who present the required letter of authorization. Late bids shall not be accepted.

9. The DPWH - Field Office II-A reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

10. The DPWH-Field Office adopts a no-nonsense policy in the conduct of its transactions and will not entertain any unofficial communications.

11. For further information, please contact the BAC Secretariat thru Mariano Ortiz, Mariano at telephone No. **897-4142 & Telefax No. 897-4144** with office address at Asiatica Upper Road, Asiatica, Montalbanjan City.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ALEX S. DATOCALDEN**
BAC Chairperson

(PP - Posted 5 Oct)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3F Anderson Bldg. G. Brgy Palanan, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0192
October 08, 2012

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for alien employment permit:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	**SAUN HOUNG IN ESTRO – DIGITAL, INC.** CPIP, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Han Aung Gul Korean	Admin Accounting Manager
2.	**MEGATEC OVERSEAS CORPORATION** Nuvali, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Kenneth Gary Lauren American	Equipment Manager
3.	**EVERGREEN PRECISION (PHILIPPINES), INC.** EPIC, Cmst Technology Center, Brgy. Batino, Calamba, Laguna	Mr. Takahiro Yokoyama Japanese	Chief Accounting Manager
4.	**CHEONA APPAREL, INC.** LOC Compound, Mamatid, Laguna	Ms. Rizalinda Wang Chinese	Senior Sewing Supervisor
5.	**CHEONA APPAREL, INC.** LOC Compound, Mamatid, Laguna	Ms. Rubilen Gil Chinese	Senior Sewing Supervisor
6.	**FINCH PHILIPPINES, INC.** LOC Bldg. Location, Mamatid Road, Cabuyao	Mr. Xie Feeling Chinese	Factory Manager
7.	**FINCH PHILIPPINES, INC.** LOC Bldg. Location, Mamatid Road, Cabuyao	Mr. Yeemeeh Chiu Chinese	Production Manager
8.	**FINCH PHILIPPINES, INC.** LOC Bldg. Location, Mamatid Road, Cabuyao	Mr. Hui Yun Chang Chinese	Engineer

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application(s), please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.)
EDITA D. AVILA
OIC – Regional Director

To avail of free job referral, placement, and employment assistance services, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Offices (PESO) or log-on at **www.jobs1.ph.gov.ph**.

(PN - Posted 8 Oct)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Kalinga Provincial Government, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and bid for the following projects:

ID #	NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	ABC	SCHEDULE	COMPLETION
1	Construction of Tribunal Building in Tabuk City	Pinukpuk	Php2,500,000.00	365 cd	120 cd

Prospective bidders should possess valid PCAB Licenses appropriate for contract/s bid, completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment listed in the Eligibility Forms/s available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary "Pass/Fail" criteria in the Eligibility Check Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract are stated in the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE		
1.	Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent	October 31, 2012	3:00 NN	Provincial Administrator's Office Capitol Bldg., Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga
2.	Issuance of the Documents	October 15, 2012	10	October 31, 2012
3.	Pre-bid Conference	October 15, 2012	3:00 NN	Provincial Administrator's Office Conference Room, Capitol Bldg., Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga
4.	Eligibility Check and Opening of Bids	October 31, 2012	3:00 NN	Provincial Administrator's Office Capitol Bldg., Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms and Bidding Documents through the BAC SECRETARIAT of the Provincial Administrator's Office, Capitol Building, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga upon their submission of letter of intent to bid, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **P 1,000.00 (One Thousand Pesos)** to the Cashier of Kalinga Provincial Government. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility requirements and Bid Proposal on the date of submission.

The Provincial Government of Kalinga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN B. TABIOS**
CHAIRPERSON, Bids and Awards Committee
Kalinga-Provincial Government

(PN - Posted 5 Oct)

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Prudential Life Plans, Inc.	A26
PSALM	A27
Manila Water	A30
Phil Health	A30

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– General Atienza

In Loving Memory
On the 46th Death Anniversary of

GENERAL RIGOBERTO J. ATIENZA

Chief of Staff, 1965 - 1966
Armed Forces of the Philippines
who died on October 8, 1966

His children Zenaida and David Ciprian, Elvira and Victor Lim, Herminia Atienza-Enos, Rosalinda Atienza-Hernando, Rolando and Cecilia Raymundo-Atienza, and Josefina Atienza-Salvatta, grandchildren and great-grandchildren invite relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers and to join them tomorrow, Tuesday, October 9, 2012 in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel, Camp Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza, Libis, Quezon City at 2:00 p.m., after which will be the interment of the Armed Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza Memorial Awards. Today, Monday, October 8, 2012, Holy Mass will be offered for General Atienza at military and PNP chapels throughout the country.

We invite you to remember **EUGENIA SUAREZ ATIENZA**, his widow who died on June 20, 1995.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate;
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BUSINESS

PSALM restructures power supply deals worth P14B

By Amy R. Remo

STATE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. has restructured 50 power supply contracts worth about P14 billion, as it aggressively moves to improve the collection of receivables from cash-strapped electric cooperatives.

In an interview, PSALM president Emmanuel H. Ledesma Jr. said the restructuring program allowed PSALM's delinquent customers to settle their obligations on installment over several months or years depending on their financial capabilities.

Under the program, Ledesma added, PSALM offered reduced late-fee charges, which would benefit both the delinquent customers and their respective customers in the world market that PSALM, through state-run National Power Corp., would continue supplying power to them.

The 50 restructured accounts covered all types of power customers, including electric cooperatives, distribution utilities, industries (as direct customers) and government offices.

The program also covered the outstanding obligations of certain customers whose proposed restructuring terms were approved by PSALM but were not yet to be signed by the concerned parties.

According to Ledesma, the restructuring of the P14 billion worth of obligations and interests has resulted in the collection of P1.309 billion from concerned customers as of March this year. Currently, the collection efficiency in both current sales and restructured accounts stood at 92 percent, he added.

For this year, PSALM has continued to pursue a two-pronged facility management program or strategy, through Ledesma did not announce to reduce the financial obligations assumed from Napocor. As of end-2013, the outstanding obligations stood at $15.58 billion.

The government, through PSALM, has been trying to bring down its receivables but was having a hard time doing so, with Napocor still managing and operating the remaining government-owned power plants and contracted capacities from independent power producers.

These facilities, and customers have yet to be privatized or sold and turned over to the private sector.

PLDT SME MaterNet Gate, a high-speed, dedicated internet connection for running critical and specialized applications, helps Sulit.com.ph in their daily business operations. Sulit.com.ph is an online marketplace for Filipinos and is the leading online classified ads and bulletin board website in the Philippines. Picture shows Sulit.com.ph owner RJ David (2nd from the left) with PLDT SME MaterBusiness Head Jane Calilung (2nd from left), PLDT SME MaterChannel Officer Joy Dando (far left) and PLDT SME Makro Channel Account Executive Royzel Miranda (far right).

Distaste of things to come

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bernal III

All along, the Commission on Elections could apparently tell the future. We often flunk the Comelec desk, Sen. Ballentes, showed us that the body could already taste some things yet to come.

He had a glimpse of this superintuitive power of the Comelec from recent reports, quoting Ballentes that the poll body would extend the deadline for the filing of candidacies for the elections next year. It could even be way beyond the Oct. 5 deadline set by the commission, perhaps as late as mid-December. That would be only five short months before the elections in May 2013.

Ballentes reportedly said the Comelec is now willing to give the extension. Give to whom? Obviously it had something to do with some maneuvers of certain politicos to file again a Cimahalian Suit, the petition became simply as Cayetta.

As we all know, our time politicians were on their last term in public office have been scrambling to carve a new province, to be called Magsaysay Cimahalian, out of Cimahan but most Cimahalian officials have been pushing for a bill in Congress. The bill had passed through the House of Representatives, although it has been going through tough times in the Senate.

Senate members found the bill too distasteful. Thus, if indeed it will pass through the Senate, it may not happen in the near future, although based on the pronouncement of our chairperson Ballentes, the Comelec was already anticipating the imminent approval.

As of the original Comelec deadline last Friday, the canvassing of Comelec staff located one by one, what with senators still wrangling over the bill. Thus, even if the split up would happen, those old-time politicos could no longer run for office in the new province. They would fail to beat the Comelec deadline.

The Comelec, in extending the deadline, "should really do it for those politicos. Thanks of course to the special accommodation courtesy of their kins, Ballentes himself.

But as I said, the contest: split up and, thus, the need for small clans in the new provinces may still have a long way to go.

For one, the bill must win the signature of our leader, Senator Ballentes (aka BB), who has shown the public so far that he could be adamant—even hard-headed—on certain issues, as long as he believes that his stand was the right one.

Perhaps he already knows that the move to split Cimahan really never found favor among business groups, NGOs, and even academic institutions.

The Cimahan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or the CCCI, has formed a resolution against the move. The group never wanted to lose apart the provincial pool.

There is a quote from their resolution. We, businessmen, are believe in the principle that if your business is big, you have to expand and not divide and conquer [sic] your territories and reduce profit."

In a joint study, the DP Center for Local and Regional Governance and the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance refuted the concern of the business group. The study concluded that the new province would suffer with the huge imbalance in territory, political interest, and, above all, income. The province would have to share the money it gets from the government, called Internal Revenue Allotment, or IRA, with the new province, Nueva Cimahan.

Thus, the study said, the Cimahan provincial government would have to raise tax rates or even impose new ones to offset the IRA loss. Would the business sector in the province be willing to accept additional taxes?

The study also said the creation of Nueva Cimahan would cost, at the very least, some P200 million for the lot of the new provincial capitol and construction of even a small building. On top of that, the administrative cost should come up to about P600 million on the first year alone. This is already equivalent to one-third of the IRA of Cimahan Province.

The big idea to create a new province—by taking it out of one or only two districts in the mother Cimahan—is our almost P600 million of the very least.

And so all other provinces may suffer one in their IRA, enhanced by the UP study at some P300 million in the first year alone, because of the need to allocate more money for Cimahan and the new province.

Yet another study done by the Local Government Development Foundation (LogoDef) and the German Foundation Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, has been calling for the "consolidation" of LGUs, calling them "overgrown."

The study said: "Bills in Congress proposing to touch provinces ultimately will lead to the creation of small, weaker provincial governments or local governments/administrations."

Then it adds: "Even if for up to fifty-five provinces or municipalities get not likely to be allocated by personnel services normally characterized by a bloated local government bureaucracy."

Let us say that our leader BB would suddenly decide that his administration should spend a thousand million (P1000 million, just as stand-up cost to create the new province. The question is then: Will the taxpayers find favor with the people of Cimahan.

The last time I checked, the Cimahan province of breaking up provinces, known in political lingo as "provincialism," would still need to pass through a plebiscite. This is always a long and costly process. That is why, from what I remember, the Comelec in the past preferred to hold plebiscite to coincide with local elections. It was a sure way for the commission to save oodles of money.

Do you think, therefore, that the chairperson Comelec would do everything in its power to hurry up the plebiscite for Nueva Cimahan, even considering that the preparations for such an important poll would be long and tedious?

And supposing then, by some lucky unforeseen chance is Comelec could find time to hold the plebiscite, how come Ballentes seemed so certain that the Comelec people would vote for the split up, and so he would extend the deadline for the sake of those old-time politicos?

Yes, in the survey conducted by the Philippine Survey and Research Center, or the PSRC—done a couple of months ago in Cimahan, sampling more than a thousand voters in the province—some 92 percent of the respondents said they were aware of the issue on the proposed division of their province.

Well, 73 percent of respondents were against it.

One of their concerns was, aside from the needless expenditures, the perception that the division would only benefit certain politicos in the province and their cronies.

The report quoting Ballentes on the deadline extension surprised even Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., chair of the local government committee, who reportedly said that in effect, the Comelec would be favoring its own cause. He also said he had requested Ballentes to issue a categorical statement on his position on the Comelec decision, implying that Ballentes could be favoring the fate of the old-time politicos.

In other words, how can the Comelec then conduct a fair plebiscite?

Bishops-Ayo Antonio Ibithaca IV said it more clearly: "This bill is gerrymandering in its worst kind, particularly one that would provide for new elective positions to accommodate incumbent congressmen."

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5 firms expected to start drilling for oil in '13

PH seen to have enough resources to live on

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy expects local and foreign petroleum exploration companies to drill at least five wells in 2013, signifying investor's enduring confidence in the current administration.

According to Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr., drilling activities are expected to be conducted by French firm Total E&P Philippines BV for Service Contract (SC) 56 in Sulu Sea, Shale Petroleum for SC 6-A in Cuyo Sea, Australian firm 18th Energy Ltd. for SC 50 in the Cuisot field, Nido Petroleum Ltd. for SC 63, and BW Balesin for SC 55.

Layug noted that the continuing interest in oil and gas exploration could be attributed to the country's rich potential and to the current high oil price environment, which would make it more economical to undertake such drilling activities.

The energy official previously commented that the Philippines is a "sleeping giant in terms of petroleum exploration. The Philippines has only 27 existing service contracts of which only two are producing. Therefore, he said, "we need to encourage more investors to come here."

Total is expected to drill a well after the acquisition of 500 square kilometers of additional 3D data in SC 56, where oil reserves are estimated to exceed 750 million barrels, enough for the country to live on by several years.

A well may also be drilled to tap the pro-

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BSP refuses to print money to weaken peso

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has spurned proposals for it to print more money so that the peso will become weaker than it is now against the US dollar.

Although the BSP admitted that it has been buying dollars from the market to help temper the appreciation of the local currency, it stressed that it would not increase its dollar-buying activities just so the peso would become artificially weak.

According to BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., the use of printing more money to significantly weaken the peso will have widespread and adverse effects on the economy.

"A few have recommended the BSP to 'print more money' instead of instituting as it appears to exploit inflows. They would like the BSP to be more 'resistive' in influencing the exchange rate," Tetangco said in a speech during an economic forum Friday.

"My response to this is that doing so would be inflationary. It [would lead to] a tremendous expansion in domestic liquidity that would fan price pressures," Tetangco explained.

The proposal for the BSP to print more money and be more aggressive in dollar buying runs amid concerns that the appreciation of the peso is making the country's export and business process outsourcing (BPO) sectors less competitive.

A stronger peso makes export goods from the Philippines more expensive. It also makes the cost of labor in the country higher. Members of the BPO sector said that, with the rise of the peso and the depreciation of the Indian rupee, the Philippines' ability to compete with India in terms of attracting BPO investments has been hampered.

But Tetangco said the BSP would keep its policy of allowing the market to determine the exchange rate to prevent volatility in foreign exchange.

The peso on Friday hit an intraday high of 41.30:$1, the strongest in four-and-a-half years.

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Firm dares to make wine drinkers out of Pinoys

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN Vicente Quimbo told family and friends that he wanted to get into the business of producing wine, most everybody thought he was crazy.

Quimbo could not really blame them for thinking that way considering that the wine drinking populace in the Philippines is in relative and proportion to the country's population.

And yet he persevered and put up Bel Monde India Corp. because he was confident that Filipinos would embrace wine as their drink of choice.

Some 15 years later, people realize that he was not so crazy after all as his NouvelLine wines have become the best selling wines in the Philippines and are now found in supermarket shelves in other countries, such as Vietnam.

Quimbo tells the business that he believed there was room in the market for wine because Filipinos do like wine, as it evokes images of romance, culture and sophistication.

But there was a huge gap between desire and actual consumption because, at that time, Filipinos believed that wine was beyond their reach or was too strong and bitter for their taste.

"So my question at that time was, what will make the Filipinos drink? They liked wine but they don't drink it. It was like a brand-ful woman that they admire but would not even try to talk to," says Quimbo.

To address those consumers, Quimbo did three things through Bel Monde.

First, tons of local wine was in limbo but wine that will appeal to the Filipino palate that flavors matter were left out.

This means going for partial fermentation of the grape juice so that not all of the sugar content is dried out. Complete fermentation means removing all of the sugar, thus making the wine "dry."

Partial fermentation was the innovation we introduced so that sugar will still be present in the wine," Quimbo explains, adding that Bel Monde had to invest in machinery and processes to keep the fermentation stable so that fermentation will be halted and the wine kept stable.

The second challenge was the price. Quimbo says that most Filipinos are intimidated by wine because they are conscientiously aware the drink with a high price.

This is why the basic NouvelLine wines—named after Neruda, a wine making town in the Piedmont region of Italy, are priced at around P200 a bottle.

The final hurdle was familiarity, and Bel Monde met this challenge by investing in massive sampling activities in supermarkets, malls and bazaars combined with product advertising in the form of radio, particularly magazines.

"We had 30,40,50 sampling locations during our initial years. We had to make Filipinos more familiar with our wine, that wine did not have to be bitter. Until now, we still invest in educational campaigns because the number of wine drinkers in the Philippines remains small," explains Quimbo.

But even if only about 1 percent of the 90 million Filipinos regularly consume wine, Quimbo says that that the market has already quadrupled since NouvelLine burst into the scene, and the prospects for growth remain high, not just here but abroad.

"There is so much opportunity for growth, not just here but in other countries like Vietnam and the United Arab Emirates. That is why we are expanding both locally and globally," says Quimbo.

To prepare for this growth, Bel Monde is investing in a new winemaking facility at the Canlubang Industrial Park, Laguna to upgrade and expand the company's wine production capabilities to between six and seven million bottles a year. The facility opened earlier this year.

The 1.3-hectare winery will house Bel Monde's production, research and development and storage facilities. The state-of-the-art equipment will come from Italy, which is known for both its wine-making traditions and technological innovations. It would be Overseeing the design is Ernesto Nocerino, the company's Italian winemaker and technical director.

"We have always been about quality and value. This is our commitment to our customers and consumers. This investment is a major milestone in all about that," says Quimbo.

NOVELLINO wines come in 11 varieties.

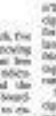
BEL Monde India Corp. founder Vicente Quimbo (right) with Italian winemaker Ernesto Nocerino

BEL MONDO owns in the continuous upgrade of its production and storage facilities.

Revised tobacco taxes: Bane or blessing?

(Second of two parts)

JOSEMA is no walk in the park. I've been having some very annoying asthma attacks over the past few months—no thanks to the microbody evasive weather and the constant smoke-belogged boardrooms and offices I've had to endure lately. And the doctor gave me a choice between the beach or my room. Since I dread the thought of fighting the traffic and enduring a long drive in a decent beach where I can have some peace and quiet, I've decided to stay home, crank up the airconditioner in my room, read old books, books and watch some DVDs. There is something to be said for peaceful rooms free of smoke, chicken, and yes, cigarette smoke, the bane of every asthmatic.



MAPping The Future

Archbishop Ambeth Ocampo

All this talk about cigarette smoke, however, makes me think of the impending changes to the excise tax on tobacco products. Any time Congress makes changes in our tax laws, I get a little anxious, because the concerned sector have those changes are going to influence everyday life—and I say this from the unemployment lines of a tax practitioner and a Filipino citizen. Sorry, because the Filipino loves to enjoy his beer and cigarettes, it's not surprising that people are concerned about how the new excise tax provisions will affect the prices of a cold bottle of beer and a cigarette.

Expensive cells or, though, then every change to the country's tax laws has the potential to be a double-edged sword, and the only question is, which side of the sword will cut through Juan dela Cruz's daily life? In the case of the excise tax on cigarettes, this is definitely a double-edged sword that will make Toledo record makers sit up and take notice. So, let's take a gander at each side of the blade, shall we?

I try to be a positive thinker, so let's consider the advantages of raising the excise taxes on tobacco products. There are some very real benefits that may come about, and the first is that smokers just may cut down on their consumption of cigarettes. Higher taxes mean that it'll cost more to light up, and less cigarettes sold will mean cleaner air for everyone. That just might translate into fewer days when my friends will come over for coffee. Big like a cat that badly needs a runway.

Still others will say that higher cigarette prices might discourage young people from acquiring the habit—it's becoming a common sight to see teenagers standing a stick or two outside school buildings, between classes, looking, well, "cool," and it's a rather disturbing truth that smokers are becoming younger and younger. Some days, coming the specter of the entire high school student or part of Philippines with crippling respiratory diseases.

As a father myself, I'm just glad my own children wouldn't even come within a mile of a cigarette. Sadly, other parents aren't as lucky as I am. I'm sure that they'd welcome a richer sharp rise in cigarette prices in the hope that their children will be put off from spending so much on a stick of rolled up leaves!

Now, the tax practitioner in me can understand why the government wants to raise the excise tax rates on tobacco and alcohol products, because it's a fact that for many years now, cigarette companies haven't had to address higher taxes. This is, either way you look at it, unfair to other industries that have seen higher tax rates over the passage of time, and it's easy to see why the government has been working to remedy this situation.

Economic development is always best achieved when there's a level playing field for all industries, and where any sector lags behind, as much as possible—as equal share of the responsibility to support national development.

Some cynics would say that the government is raising excise tax rates not so much to level the playing field, but to raise revenues from it. I particularly favorable individual sector—after all, millions of Pinoys can be seen puffing away in all kinds of places, from the street corner to the senior office.

But then, one can't argue with the need to raise taxes, which, as we all know, are absolutely necessary if we're going to uphold such things as peace and order, health care, and so on.

Either way you look at it, you can't run a government on a shoestring budget, so expect national development to come at high, if-everyone—the ancient individual—has to pay his fair share of taxes, and invest in the future of the country.

I'm especially gratified by reports that there are plans to allocate excise tax revenues to health care programs, in particular excess of government that I personally think needs to be funded as generously as possible.

All of these considerations are excellent reasons for an increase in the excise taxes on cigarettes. But like I said, smoking (or, rather, the lack of it) is a double-edged sword. And in the case of the excise tax on cigarettes, here's the catch—if things go according to plans, the new excise tax rates will raise the taxes on tobacco products so dramatically that the price of cigarettes will surely hit stratospheric levels. And the cigarettes I'm referring to are not those fancy imported cigarettes, but the cigarettes that are locally produced by cigarette manufacturers who employ local labor and make use of local resources.

It doesn't take a Stephen Hawking to realize that if the prices of local cigarettes goes up faster than, from 50m at full throttle, there is bound to be an impact on the economy and it will definitely not be a good one. The first casualty will be the tobacco industry itself—numerous retail points of locally manufactured cigarettes will be forced to go for the most popular and the most palatable cigarettes, may well mean not only a reduction, but a nose-dive in the sales of these cigarettes. And if that happens, then the government's objective to raise revenues from higher excise taxes will ultimately be defeated. (To be concluded)

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the firm agencies Association of the Philippines. The author is a Senior Partner of The Tax Offices of Romero, Aguilar & Associates and member of the BIR National Assist Committee and the SEAP Tax Committee. Feedback at mapp@philtaxlaw.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit <http://mapp.ph>.)

Making workers feel valued, appreciated

By Lila Bonifacio-de Leon
Contributor

WHAT will you say to a subordinate who asks you in the hallway if you have a minute to spare? Would you say "Yes, now I have two consecutive meetings in mind"? Or would say "Oh, yes, please, come walk with me to my office. What I can do for you?"

If it's the former, you most certainly will not close off your boss any questions or approach him. Whatever motivation you may have at work has just been plunged in cold water. It's a feeling you've just been brushed off because you're of no importance to the boss.

If it's the latter, you have discovered that your boss is a goat, not a jerk who can definitely use some intensive training in staff motivation.

Bookstore like these happen countless times in many professional organizations where upstart managers and supervisors (and even those nearing retirement) seem mystified about what truly motivates employees.

They think that if their employees are paid their wages, their overtime pay and given all the monetary perks, they won't look elsewhere.

In most cases, it isn't about money. It's about appreciation, recognition, and a sense of belonging.

So how should corporate executives and leaders make their employees feel that they're appreciated, valued, and recognized, that they belong and are treated fairly?

A website on employee motivation (http://www.motivation.com) will tell you precisely: quick note, employee morale will ultimately be delivered. (To be concluded)

> For workers, it is not always about the money

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BBB PROGRAM

A PROJECT OF

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

Home Guaranty Corporation - Housing Finance Matchmaker

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is launching today a nationwide program to boost lending by banks and borrowings by developers and home buyers. According to HGC President, Atty. Manuel R. Sanchez, the B-B-B Program is an enhancement of HGC's function as Fund Mobilizer for Housing. "We aim to bring together bankers, builders and buyers in a housing finance circle complementing each other's needs and functions", Sanchez said.

HGC President Atty. Manuel R Sanchez (right) confers with Vice President and HCDCC Chairman Jejomar Binay who also serves as Vice Chairman of HGC's Board of Directors.

The B-B-B Program aims to: assist partner banks promote housing loan products to builders and home buyers; bring builders to banks for project financing and promoting their housing units to prospective buyers; and guide homebuyers in self-qualify for housing loans and provide them with home-buying options according to their financial capacities and other preferences such as type of housing unit, location, etc.

For its part, HGC:

- guarantees payment of individual housing loans extended by partner banks and financing institutions through *HGC's Retail Guaranty facility*;
- guarantees payment of loans extended by partner banks to developers for the development of subdivisions, townhouses, dormitories, apartments and other residential dwellings through *HGC's Developmental Guaranty facility*; and
- guarantees payment of securities sold to raise funding for housing developments/projects through *HGC's Securitization program*.

Prospective homebuyers and the general public are avail of B-B-B services through the official B-B-B website. The B-B-B website is an online database of housing loan products of partner banks, available housing units of partner developers, home buying tips and guides, FAQs and various other information. "It is virtually Home Ownership 101", according to Sanchez.

"B-B-B aims to help home buyers overcome their natural aversion to bank borrowing due to the false belief that they will never qualify for a housing loan" Sanchez said. "We are also reaching them to self-qualify for housing loans and plan for home ownership." The B-B-B program is anchored on VP and HCDCC Chairman Jejomar C. Binay's advocacy of "Sim pagsisi ang bahay, kung may tatiling bahay".

The B-B-B website will be unveiled today during the B-B-B Program launch at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia. VP Binay, who is also Vice Chairman of the HGC Board will give the keynote address.

HGC President Atty. Manuel R. Sanchez (left) and BPI Family Savings Bank's President Jose Teodoro Limcaoco (right), during the contract of guaranty signing between HGC and BPIFSB.

HGC partners with housing builders associations such as the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA), to address the country's housing needs through conduct of housing fairs. HGC President Atty. Manuel R Sanchez (third from right) with SHDA officers during SHDA's Housing Fair.

14 Banks and 9 Developers Sign up for HGC's B-B-B Program

BPI Family Savings Bank, Philippine Savings Bank, Planters Development Bank, East West Banking Corporation, Malayan Bank, Sterling Bank of Asia, Philippine National Bank, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Land Bank of the Philippines, Rural Bank of Makati, Philippine Veterans Bank, RCBC Savings Bank, Equicom Savings Bank and The Real Bank; and developers Filinvest Land, New San Jose Builders, PHO-Friends, Pueblo de Oro, Sunvast Properties, Foghorn, 8990 Development Corp., Hausland and NGG Properties, Inc. all signed up for the Home Guaranty Corporation's (HGC) Bankers-Builders-Buyers (B-B-B) Program.

Sovereign Guaranty

Since its creation in 1978 as the Home Financing Commission, the Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) has institutionalized a viable system of credit guarantee that has become an integral component of the government's shelter program.

The HGC guaranty carries the unconditional guaranty of the Republic of the Philippines and bond investors for housing credits extended by financing institutions. The HGC guaranty takes the risk out of private investment in housing – the more HGC guarantees, the more private funds flow for housing and urban development, the closer we get to a homeless-free Philippines.

Dependable Guaranty Institution

HGC had withstood the Asian Financial Crisis of the 1990s and the global economic crisis of the latter part of the previous decade that rocked the international mortgage market. HGC's guaranty had been called on several occasions and it had always honored its obligations – the true test of a dependable guaranty corporation.

Since 1990, with the enactment of its new charter, HGC has guaranteed PhP 279.99 Billion worth of private investment in housing – translating to 934,569 housing units. Fostering public-private partnerships at the forefront of the housing finance industry, HGC, since 2000, has been a dependable partner of real estate developers, banks and financial institutions.

Under the administration of His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino, III, HGC has guaranteed PhP 65.56 Billion worth of housing loans for 47,095 housing units.

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Federal Realty and Development Corporation: P10,...
in Villa Monaco, Imus, Cavite

Federal Land, Inc.: P11,...
in Treasure Garden City, Dasmariñas, Kawit, Northtown City

Filinvest Land, Inc.: P10,...
in The Glens at Park Spring, San Pedro, Laguna

Hanjin York and Tradition Homes: P5,...
in Sweet Hills in San Pedro, Laguna

Landco Pacific Corp.: P5,...
in Tribeca Private Residences in Scout, Mandaluyo City

Megaworld Corp.: P5,...
in Manhattan Parkway, Cubao, Quezon City

Robinsons Land Corp.: P5,...
in St. Benilde Edades in San Jose, Antipolo Rizal

Sunvast Properties, Inc.: P5,...
in Sta. Rosa Heights, Silang, Cavite

SMDC: P5,...
in Chelsea Grove, Molino, Parañaque City

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Continuing Drive for Excellence

In line with the "*Daang Matuwid*" campaign of President Benigno S. Aquino III, HGC, under its present management, has instituted reforms to safeguard the best interest of the government while exploring innovative ways to better serve the nation.

HGC has embarked on a determined campaign to recover government guaranty in previous dealings. HGC's more than P300 inventory of acquired assets, was a result of calls on its guaranty. The bulk of these were in connection with flagship projects of the national government in the 1980s, funded through the flotation of asset-backed securities.

HGC Gets Transparency Seal

The Department of Budget and Management granted the "Transparency Seal" to the Home Guaranty Corporation after satisfying the requirements of Section 93 of the Republic Act No. 10155 or the General Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2012.

HGC is among the first national government agencies to comply with the requirements for "enhancing transparency and enhancing accountability". Made accessible on HGC's official website, www.hgc.gov.ph are the Corporation's report of accomplishments with financial reports, its major programs, the annual procurement plan, awarded contracts, budget for 2012, among other requirements for acquiring the Transparency Seal.

HGC President Atty. Manuel B. Sanchez said this is also in compliance with the transparency and good governance directive of by Vice President and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Chairman, Ejercito C. Estrada.

Atty. Manuel B. Sanchez (second from left), HGC President, and Atty. Rainilson Dalangan (third from left), SemiCore Properties, Inc. President, during the contract of guaranty signing between HGC and SemiCore. They are joined by Corazon Corpuz, Hightowns, HGC's Executive Vice President, and Phoenix Jean Chua (to right/center), SemiCore's Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations.

Moving towards higher efficiency, HGC signs deal with Genie Technologies Incorporated (Genie Ecig and Microsoft to develop the corporation's Information System. HGC President Atty. Manuel Sanchez, (center) poses with Lei Soprani Alella, GenieEcig President, and Vincent Ang (right), Microsoft Business Solutions-Malaysia President.

ISO 9001:2008 Certified by November 2012

In response to Executive Order No. 605, which directs all government instrumentalities to adopt ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Systems, HGC has started the process for ISO certification early this year.

ISO 9000 is a series of international quality standards developed by the International Organization for Standardization as a basis for the development of Quality Management Systems (QMS). A quality management system is a means for a public sector organization to direct and control its activities to satisfy the needs and expectations of citizens. ISO 9000:2000 is the latest of the series.

HGC's ISO certification project aims to promote increased efficiency, improved processes, enhanced employee morale, factual approach to decision-making, improved client relationships, improved documentation, consistency in service delivery, enhanced client satisfaction and increased revenue.

HGC URGES GV ISO 9001 CERTIFICATION: HGCC Chairman and Vice President Jejomar C. Binay (center) witnesses the MOA signing between the Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC) represented by its president Manuel B. Sanchez (left) and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) represented by Antonio N. Kalaw, Jr. (right) for the Development of Quality Management System (QMS) Certifiable to ISO 9001:2008. A key shelter agency under HUDCC, HGC is mandated to mobilize private funds for housing by extending credit risk cover on loans for home purchase and housing development.

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Full Automation of Core Functions by December 2012

In July 2011, the Home Guaranty Corporation implemented its Information System Strategic Plan (ISSP). HGC's ISSP was formulated to develop a customized IT solution in support of HGC's various operations.

The HGC Information Systems is currently under development using n-tiered architecture consisting of five core components namely: Operations Support Information System, Decision Support Information System, Enterprise Resource Planning, HGC Portal, and Document Management and Workflow System. The development of the HGC Information Systems employs Microsoft Dynamics AX, currently the latest and flagship Enterprise Resource Planning Software from Microsoft.

The ISSP implementation is intended to improve and harness all aspects of HGC operations from executive decision-making to client and customer service. HGC Information Systems is set to be fully operational by December 2012.

HGC to Release Titles to Homebuyers of La Savoie Dev't Corp.

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) will release 177 titles to fully-paid buyers of housing units in Las Palmas Village in Sto. Tomas, Batangas; Gen. Trias Homes in Cavite; and La Chesa Heights in Quezon City. This policy gives meaning to the oft-quoted pledge of Vice President and HUDCC Chairman Jejomar C. Binay that "poor and hardworking Filipino families should be favored to enjoy the pride of homeownership."

HGC President Atty. Manuel R. Sanchez made the pronouncement in conjunction with HGC's continuing review of all its policies on acquired assets and in marketing the same.

HGC, a key shelter agency under HUDCC (Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council) is mandated to mobilize private funds for housing by granting guaranty cover on loans extended by banks for home purchases or housing developments. In 1996, HGC guaranteed the financing for six housing projects by the La Savoie Development Corporation (LSDC). The project failed and HGC had to pay the obligations to the investors. In exchange, the projects' assets were conveyed to HGC.

In 2009, LSDC and HGC entered into a Compromise Agreement to settle LSDC's indebtedness. LSDC was to transfer the projects' assets and remit an indicated value of receivables to HGC. HGC shall then deliver to LSDC a total 521 titles, excluding 177 titles to fully paid buyers, and withdraw the cases filed against LSDC.

At this point, Buenavista Properties, Inc., a creditor of LSDC, surfaced and levied the titles of some properties that would have been conveyed to HGC. As a result, LSDC was not able to transfer the promised assets and HGC could not release the titles, including the177 titles to fully paid buyers.

LSDC offered to replace the titles levied by Buenavista Properties. But the offered properties were appraised at only P2.160M as against the P28.365M worth of properties levied by Buenavista Properties.

HGC may choose not to release the 177 titles to compel LSDC to convey properties of equal value to that levied by Buenavista Properties. "But that", according to Sanchez, "runs counter to HGC's and HUDCC's mission of providing homes to Filipino families."

"These are hardworking, honest Filipinos who bought from LSDC in good faith, they should not be held hostage by the developer's faults", Sanchez declared. Upon the instruction of VP Binay, HGC will release the 177 titles to fully paid buyers and enlist their cooperation in going after LSDC. Turning over the titles will not negate the criminal liability of LSDC to the fully paid buyers. The buyers are made whole, not by LSDC but by HGC. With the cooperation of the fully paid buyers, HGC will pursue both criminal action against LSDC for violating PD 957 (The Subdivision and Condominium Buyers' Protective Decree) and for civil damages.

The title turnover ceremony will be held at Gen. Trias, Cavite early November, with VP Binay presiding. HGC is adopting the same policy and strategy in dealing with developers with similar cases.

BANKERS-BUILDERS-BUYERS PROGRAM

- *Bringing together bankers, builders and buyers in a housing finance circle complementing each others' needs*
- *Assisting partner banks promote their housing loan products to builders and buyers*
- *Bringing builders to banks for project financing and promoting their housing units to prospective buyers*
- *Guiding prospective home buyers to self-qualify for housing loans and providing them with options according to their financial capacity and other preferences*

BUYERS BUILDERS BANKERS
BBB PROGRAM
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SEABORNE and CONNECTED

Making sure Filipino seafarers enjoy 100% connectivity anywhere in the world

Standing: SMART Enterprise Product Manager Liz Abaquin, SMART Enterprise Marketing Head Dan Mary Alcid, PLDT Corporate Relationship Business Head Ian Manlapaz, PLDT Corporate Relationship Manager Pia Sales, SMART Enterprise Product Specialist Angelo Guamay, SMART Enterprise Business Manager Ryan Justice, PLDT VP and Head of Corporate Relationship Management Ivy Legaspina, PLDT VP and Head of PLDT ALPHA Enterprise and SMART Enterprise Sales and Marketing Head Jose Hernandez, Magsaysay Maritime Corporation Chief Executive Officer Jesus Chavez, Magsaysay Maritime Corporation Chief Operations Officer Alejandro Quirol, Magsaysay Maritime Corporation VP Head of Shipping Corp. Arnold B. Jones, Magsaysay Maritime Corporation Head of Crew and Family Relations Allona Pablo Jr. and PeopleLink, Inc. General Manager Roberto Gan Jansi

Seated: PLDT SVP and Head of Enterprise and International Carrier Business Group A. Mitra Sy, President and Chief Executive Officer of PLDT and SMART Napoleon R. Nazareno, President & CEO of the Magsaysay Inc. Mr. Doris Magsaysay Ho and President of Magsaysay Maritime Corporation Mr. Marlon R. Roño

Magsaysay, a major player in the shipping and human resources industries, provides comprehensive workforce and service solutions to its clients through its subsidiary, the Magsaysay People Resources Corporation (MPRC). Guided by the goal of becoming the leading global human resource company, MPRC delivers an end-to-end international recruitment and search solutions to some 45, 000 professionals worldwide.

An integral part of achieving that goal is having reliable communication and collaboration with its employees. "Magsaysay has been launching a lot of initiatives to ensure that the Magsaysay people are connected with the people who matter—their families and friends—and ensuring that they can communicate with us easily," said Mr. Marlon R. Roño, President of the Magsaysay Maritime Corporation.

What We Need is 100% Connectivity

Their original problem was complex and massive. How to keep the global workforce connected in the country and the people that they left behind? SIM cards for their mobile phones were not enough to maintain connectivity—they expired quickly and, thanks, didn't always work. So, they approached Mr. Napoleon Nazareno, President & CEO of PLDT and SMART, asking him for a solution. Together, Magsaysay and PLDT ALPHA Enterprise developed the Magsaysay 100% Connectivity Program.

The program, which ensures information and communication access to all Magsaysay crew members, soon became a benchmark in the shipping and manning industry. With special and exclusive Magsaysay SIM cards, they enjoy signal-boosting technology jointly developed by PLDT and Magsaysay for use around the globe.

The Magsaysay Connect Android application gives users an optimized interface for accessing relevant information like messages from their families, payslips and visa scheduling —to name just a few applications. Like the Magsaysay SIM, it is specifically designed for the Magsaysay crew members.

To celebrate the successful launch of this initiative and partnership, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise and Magsaysay recently held a contract signing ceremony. Ms. Doris Magsaysay- Ho, President & CEO of A. Magsaysay, Inc., along with Mr. Marlon R. Roño, President of Magsaysay Maritime Corporation, were on hand to represent the Magsaysay Group. PLDT was represented by Mr. Napoleon Nazareno, along with Mr. Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP and Head of Enterprise & International and Carrier Business.

Mr. Nazareno thanked the PLDT and Magsaysay teams for their hard work. "I just want to thank Doris and Marlon for this opportunity to showcase our technology and help out in improving the lives of our seafarers," he said.

Ms. Magsaysay-Ho shared the story of the powerful origin. It stemmed from her own experiences during the catastrophic earthquake that hit Japan in 2011. "When my family was stuck in Japan during the aftermath of the 3/11 earthquake, the only way to contact them was through my email. This sparked the drive for Magsaysay to turn our attentions to ensuring connectivity. We hope that PeopleLink will continue working with SMART to extend this service not only to Magsaysay, but to other overseas workers all over the world."

"Today's ceremony symbolizes the new programs that fulfill our vision of giving our families and our seafarers the chance to live a virtual life with their loved ones. We are thrilled to think of new ways to connect people. We trusted Magsaysay PeopleLink as an independent unit to lead on initiatives," she added.

Magsaysay and PLDT ALPHA Enterprise have successfully teamed up so that from now on, no matter where the Filipino global workers will be, they feel closer to home. With the Magsaysay 100% Connectivity Program, there is access to information and better communication.

Ms. Magsaysay-Ho and Mr. Nazareno (2nd prior to the contract signing.

PROJECT & Business BIG Investment Guide

A good deed starts with a good seed

By Marie Suazo

THE PHILIPPINES has rich agricultural lands, and yet Filipinos have started to import rice, fruits, and vegetables in growing volumes. Even if vast lands have been turned into housing development projects, some vegetable farmers still believe that it's not an excuse not to plant "short-duration" vegetables that can either be sold or consumed by family members.

"We want to provide innovative products and services that will help increase the income of vegetable farmers as well as promote the growth and quality of the tropical vegetable industry," said Mary Ann Reyes, general manager of East West Seed Philippines during the company's 20th anniversary presentation recently.

East West has been breeding seeds according to a specific country's climate and soil condition for higher yields since 1982 in Lipa, Batangas. The company was founded by ninth generation Dutch "seed man" Steven Dates with the help of Filipino friend Renato Quintiaja.

EAST West Seed Philippines promotes vegetable planting in schools.

Good seed

East West Seed encourages more people, even recovering non-farmers, to plant good types of seeds.

"A good seed can change the lives of millions," Sayne said. "We believe that a good seed is the starting point of a long chain of value creation: by using high-quality, high-performing seeds, farmers harvest better yields and earn more from their land and labor. This also means safer, more attractive, and nutritious vegetables for consumers."

Vegetable farming can easily give a healthy return on investment in a short time because it takes only weeks to grow vegetables. Because the company wants to ensure that the seeds reach their maximum growth, it has employees who educate farmers through technology transfer.

"We send our people to teach farmers how to properly sow for their seeds," explained Sayne. "We give them the knowledge and the tools that it doesn't stop with just planting and watering. There are certain steps to make sure that they get higher yields compared with what used to be the market."

East West has 12 research and development centers across China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. At present, the company produces 100 varieties and 200 hybrids seeds annually.

Sayne said that R&D is used to come up with no fewer than five seed varieties. The first ever locally developed commercial hybrid called Jade Star is still being produced today.

Disease-resistant

Hybrid seeds are developed to be disease resistant, having longer shelf life, extended growing seasons, better eating quality, and improved adaptability to local farming conditions.

By using film coating technology, the seed quality is enhanced through the application of polymer binders to the seed surface without obscuring its shape. The seeds are also protected with a fungicide that spreads around a developing seedling after the seeds are watered.

This coating is what prevents seeds against "damping off diseases and other seed-borne pathogens" which leads to loss or no use of pesticides.

East West Seed plans to finalize has a capacity to store 550 tons of seeds. That is also where the local research and development is focused. Local offices work with their European counterparts in developing a single seed.

At present, East West Seed removes 30 million farmers worldwide especially in countries like Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It is seen by expanded its business to Cambodia, China, India, Laos and South America, and Vietnam.

"The adoption of improved seed varieties, combined with better farm management and access to market and credit, has been proven to increase the productivity and incomes of small-holder farmers in Asia," Sayne said. "In turn, this in some is used to expand the business of farmers, provide education for their children, and improve their lives. There is some other spent in local economies, creates a multiplier effect on business and employment opportunities in the communities."

THE COMPANY has produces various fruit seed varieties.

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Another way to manage your dollars is simply to keep them in a regular savings account. It's a tried and tested bank product with minimal risk, so you don't need to worry much. But with this option, you can't set your financial goals too high because of the low interest rates.

So what then can you do with your dollars?

Invest it in a low risk, high yield product. Locking-up your hard-earned money or saved overseas remittance could at first be daunting. But with LANDBANK's "LBP High-Yield USD 3YD", your dollars can reach optimal gains.

This US dollar-denominated special time deposit has a term of three years which earns 2.5% interest rate p.a., much higher than the regular savings and time deposit products. Minimum amount of deposit is only US $5,000.

Please visit the nearest LANDBANK branch and open an account now.

LANDBANK

LBC Solutions launches 'Ka-Biz' business advocacy

LBC SOLUTIONS, in partnership with Go Negosyo, has recently unveiled its negosyo advocacy brand "Ka-Biz", an advocacy that aims to further strengthen LBC's support for the development of local businesses.

"LBC Solutions has always been a partner of small and medium enterprises and corporate clients for their logistics needs," said of Miguel A. Carnahan, president of LBC Solutions. "We proudly introduce LBC Ka-Biz, our business advocacy program wherein together with Go Negosyo, we will further strengthen our commitments in micro-building by helping entrepreneurs build their business by running their business." Carnahan added.

Ka-Biz, a shortened phrase meaning "kumonekta sa biz" is an advocacy that aims to support SMEs all over the Philippines by having LBC as a partner or "kumonekta" to running their business.

Through LBC Ka-Biz, SMEs will be provided the opportunity to expand their business through LBCs extensive logistics network and corporate service offerings. SMEs will also be provided the opportunity to participate in Go Negosyo business networking seminars to widen their business prospects.

Initially, members of Go Negosyo will also be given a Ka-Biz discount card wherein card holders may enjoy various perks such as discounts from various partner establishments, and discounts in business seminars or programs.

LBC shall also be partnering soon with other organizations with the same advocacy in further strengthen its support for SMEs.

MIGUEL A. Carnahan, president of LBC Solutions, presents the Ka-Biz discount card to Joey Concepcion, founding trustee of Go Negosyo and chair and CEO of RFM Corp. From left are Jerome Santos, AVP for corporate sales, LBC Solutions; Carnahan; Ramon Lapez, executive director for Go Negosyo; and Concepcion.

Grade 5 and 6 students receive flu vaccines for Global CSR Day 2012

MAYBANK Philippines, Inc. held a flu vaccination drive as its participation to the Annual Global CSR Day last Sept. 22.

A total of 360 Grade 5 and Grade 6 students from the Bagong Ilog Elementary School in Barangay Ilaya, Mandaluyong City, received flu vaccines during the activity that was a joint undertaking of Maybank Philippines, Inc., Maybank ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp., and LandCo Pacific Corp.

Thirty Maybank employees helped out in the activity, and were led by lawyer Adonis Aguirre, SVP and head for Investment and Asset Management, and Irene Cueto of Corporate Affairs. Joining them were 10 volunteers from Maybank ATR Kim Eng and LandCo, and the medical team from Winnies Health Care led by Drs. Gigi Gutierrez.

Dr. Rosenda E. Sanggalang, principal of Bagong Ilog Elementary School, and Ma. Teresa E. Indap, district nurse, welcomed the entourage and even engaged the school's students with an intermission number.

The Global CSR Day is an outreach program of the Maybank Group globally. It is an annual event that started in 2008 as part of Maybank's 50th anniversary celebration, and happens simultaneously for one day in areas where Maybank is present.

This year's event saw more than 18,000 Maybankers participating in over 150 different initiatives from the group's offices in Malaysia, New York, London, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Brunei, China, Taiwan and Singapore.

Among some of the company's projects are helping school dropouts, equipping hospital wards with reading and entertainment facilities, helping single mothers generate income, educational assistance for underprivileged, creating business opportunities for the disabled, providing a center for cancer awareness, and helping refugee children in the country.

Some of the bank's projects in other countries include "Kwan-ji Kinja Akti Fenghcyia" from Maybank Bil schools aims to increase the basketball production of disabled people, "Fanmy expanke making class" for the underprivileged children from Maybank Hong Kong, and "London City Rotation Mission," a project by Maybank Kim Eng London to distribute food in the homeless.

About Maybank

The Maybank Group is Malaysia's largest financial services group with an international network of over 2,000 offices in 14 countries, namely Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong Special Region's Republic of China, Bahrain, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Group offers an extensive range of products and services, which includes commercial banking, investment banking, Islamic banking, stock broking, insurance and takaful and asset management. It has over 43,000 employees serving more than 22 million customers worldwide.

In the Philippines, Maybank has 33 branches nationwide and is set to change over its recent headquarters, Maybank Corporate Center, in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, in November 2012.

Pinoy franchised brands go global

By Joel V. Nigos

POTEO CORNER, Geco-Bing, Aquabest and Lay-Bare: these are just some of homegrown Filipino enterprises that have expanded their presence beyond the country's shores. They are also successful business models that have helped the small and medium enterprises sector and inspired would-be entrepreneurs to go into franchising.

But moving to foreign shores did not come on a silver platter. There were doubting Thomases like in the case of Poteo Corner where it put up its first kiosk in the United States.

"You're selling rice to the Bikolanos," someone said to Butch Abarabar, Poteo Corner consultant and president of CARS Franchise Development. To which he replied: "Yes, but it's flavored!" Today, Poteo Corner treats its barrels with eight branches in the US on the growing popularity of its flavored French fries.

Similarly, Geco-Bing has installed the United Arab Emirates, Aquabest in Saipan, a territory of the United States, and Lay-Bare also in the US.

The Association of Filipino Franchisors Inc. will showcase all these achievements in the 11th Filipino franchise show dubbed "Galing ng Pinoy" on Oct. 12-14 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. The show is expected to bring to the fore AFFI's commitment to uplift the country's micro, small, and medium enterprises. It will also present opportunities to prospective entrepreneurs who are planning to engage in business.

The franchise show is geared toward making "Galing ng Pinoy" as the focal point of the exhibit. The event expects over 30,000 visitors, and 200 exhibitors from various regions of the country to take part.

"This is going to be a show of the homegrown brands in the country," said Voltaire Magpayo, AFFI director for Mindanao. "The show is intended for aspiring entrepreneurs who are franchising as a business model for start-up ventures and for micro-entrepreneurs who wish to grow and expand."

AFFI began in 1997 when a group of visionary entrepreneurs decided to form a body which will address the needs of Filipino franchisors. Incorporators Bob Jaso of Lahuyan sa Kinse, Armando Bayuk one of GMR Franchise Consultancy, Tony Cruz of Potato Makaton, Jorge Wieneke of Poteo Corner, Teresa Lazcal of Geco-Bing, Perla Jaso of Figaro, and Shelter Cano of Fiorgelato formed the 19 Filipino Franchise Federation (FF). In 2008, it changed its name to AFFI.

Its membership include Fiorgelato, Sweet Corner, Potato World, Geco-Bing, Let's A Pizza, Pinto Pringo, GMR Franchise Developers, Bobbinalicious, Aquabest, Chickoutlic, Big Apple Spa, Aquabest, among others.

Galing ng Pinoy

The 11th Filipino Franchise Show dubbed "Galing Ng Pinoy" will be presented by the Association of Filipino Franchisors, Inc. (AFFI) on Oct. 12 to 14 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Expected to participate are 30 SMEs and three One Town, One Province (OTOP) stores from 11 regions of the country representing the provinces' food, furniture, personal care products, fashion accessories, home décor and health and wellness products and services sectors.

Senator Edgardo J. Angara is expected to deliver the keynote speech at the opening ceremonies.

More OFWs start own businesses through loans from LANDBANK

More returning Overseas Filipino Workers are set to start their own businesses as the Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) approved more loans under the government's OFW Reintegration Program (OFW-RP).

As of end-July 2012, LANDBANK approved P272.8 million in loans for 425 OFWs so they can start their own business and engage in livelihood activities. This is expected to generate an estimated 1,648 jobs.

Among the loans that were approved are working capital requirements for businesses in palay and rice trading, hog raising and fattening, agri-vet and poultry supplies, and general merchandise.

"We at LANDBANK join the National Government in facilitating the reintegration of returning overseas workers by providing financial and technical assistance to help them start their own businesses. We are optimistic that by becoming entrepreneurs, they will not only ensure their socio-economic stability but can also help boost the country's economy," said LANDBANK President and CEO Gilda E. Pico.

LANDBANK offers a range of financial services including project modules such as bangus in bamboo cages, tilapia culture in earthen pond, hog fattening project and native chicken project. The modules provide OFW-borrowers information on investment requirements and projected monthly income for the said projects.

Bonafide members of the OWWA who have undergone the required training may borrow from P300,000 to as much as P2 million at 7.5 percent interest per annum payable within one year or a maximum of seven years, depending on the proposed project. Eligible projects include those with confirmed market, market contract or service contracts that will generate an income of at least P10,000 every month.

For further information or assistance, interested OFWs may visit the LANDBANK website (www.landbank.com) or call (02) 405-7640.

Photo shows Elmir Asatan, one of the beneficiaries of the OFW Reintegration Program, who is now President of his own company, Reg En Jo's Trading (Compagnia Wine). From 2001 to 2010, Elmir worked abroad in a hotel and as a crew member of Carnival and Princess Cruise Lines, a luxury liner which travelled the US, Europe, Mediterranean and the Caribbean. When his contract expired in 2010, he opted to avail of the OFW Reintegration Program. With an initial capital investment of Php400,000 in 2011, Reg en Jo's now has total assets worth more than a million pesos and 11 full-time employees.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Shocking state of heritage in the Philippines

DOMINIC Galicia, an architect and new editor-in-chief of BluPrint Magazine, sent a descriptive e-mail encapsulating the shocking state of heritage in the Philippines.

Despite the many shocks, or surprising are the strides that have come into being to prevent endangered heritage from vanishing, Galicia discloses.

He went to represent with permission:

"I am shocked by the disappearance of heritage houses from key heritage districts and their transfer to the Batasan shrublines.

"I am shocked that while the President speaks of heritage tourism as an anchor of the new Philippine economy, the very sites that anchor tourism in various towns and cities of the country, have been rendered toothless by capacity.

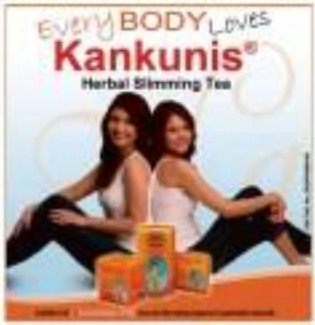
Augusto F. Villalon

Here today, gone tomorrow

"I am shocked to recall Elizalde Senior when the Eulogist Mansion was still there, and shocked to see Malaga Street today, with the looming concrete mass replaced it [the Baguio] Mansion, founding location of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts], without thought of saving the environment a few meters back toward the middle of the site, to preserve at least a modicum of the streetscape.

"I am shocked to discover that] the Delfonso Mansion [is] no longer [near] Magsaysay Circle [in Legaspi].

"I am shocked that the Ati site is gone. I am shocked that after



International confab on cultural tourism set in Vigan

By Augusto F Villalon

THE INTERNATIONAL Conference on Cultural Tourism of the International Council for Monuments and Sites (Icomos) will be held in the City of Vigan, Philippines, Nov. 7-8.

Theme is "Cultural Tourism for Community Development." Agenda focuses on well-planned sustainable cultural tourism as an underutilized tool for nation-building and community development.

To be presented are national and international case studies that document successful projects that have made the connection between heritage, tourism and community development.

The event is organized by the Icomos Philippine Committee in behalf of the Icomos (ICTC), whose vice president is held by the Philippines.

Icomos is the international organization based in Paris that regulates the heritage conservation profession worldwide and is the official advisory body to the Unesco World Heritage Committee for all cultural heritage issues.

Icomos membership is divided into 26 International Scientific Committees that focus on different conservation specialties such as archaeological management, risk management, documentation, historic towns and villages, and cultural tourism.

Members of the International Committee for Cultural Tourism are heritage and tourism professionals, academics and researchers who have researched the cultural-tourism field in many ways.

Its most significant contributions have been editing and producing the Tourism Handbook for the UN World Tourism Organization in Madrid, and, more recently, participation in formulating the Heritage for Sustainable Tourism adopted by the Unesco World Heritage Committee this year.

This is the second conference hosted by Icomos Philippines. The first was the International Committee on Vernacular Architecture Conference of 2007 which took place when the colonial-era city (yes-vigan) was held by the Philippines.

Conference participants were taken on site visits to traditional villages and two museums in Ilocos province, location of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, a property inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Hopes to create for the post's conference a appropriate, as it is an example of a World Heritage Site that has become thorough community participation, an emerging tourism destination.

Through this event, expert members of ICTC, Icomos Philippines, and representatives from developing countries of Asia and the Pacific will establish association with national and local officials, government cultural agencies, tourism policy-makers and stakeholders, cultural workers, educators and students to discuss present day issues on tourism and heritage.

The benefits of community participation in conservation and cultural tourism programs as an essential aspect of cultural tourism and the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention will become the underlying themes of the conference.

In cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs, 30 participants from developed and countries will attend the meeting as trainees in cultural tourism programming to be established in their own countries.

Principal sponsors of the conference are the City Government of Vigan through Mayor Eric Singson Medina, the Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur through Gov. Chavit Singson.

Major sponsors of the conference are Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Tourism, Banson Abrille Foundation Inc.; the Bernard Museum of the Philippines, and the Intramuros Administration.

Note that seats are limited, and priority is given to Icomos Philippines committee members.

Conference fee: Professional (P5,500 inclusive of lunch) on both days, conference kits).

Student (P3000 inclusive of packed lunch on both days, conference kits).

For inquiries and registration, e-mail the Conference Secretariat at dr_rgarcia@hotmail.com; philippines.com.

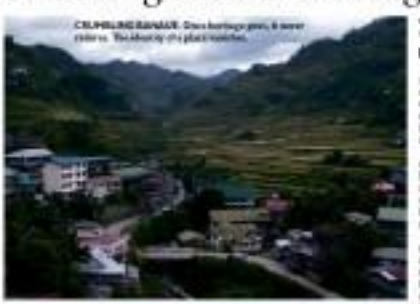
Comments and feedback on this article may be e-mailed to the author at philstar@gmail.com.

ALTHOUGH it hasn't reached its full potential, Vigan is an excellent example of sustainable community-based cultural tourism.

CHRIST'S Salad sa Kalbilo program has successfully put food bags on Cebu's map and is an example for other cities to follow.

Shocking state of heritage in the Philippines

From page C1



CRUMBLING BANAUE. Once heritage gem, it never came to. The absence of a place watches.

EVEN PHILIPPINE cities guard their special identities from destructive projects: cityscapes like Zamboanga does.

more than a decade, the lot (where it once stood) remains empty.

Indomitable Escalta

"I am shocked by the state of Taft Avenue in Pasay. Once the enclave of well-designed abodes for the well-heeled, I am shocked that the stately homes have been pulverized to make room for bus depots and eyesores.

"I am shocked by the destruction of New Manila, and shocked by the lack of concern among architects and developers there who are unable to harness the existing structures to be just—one way or another—of the new development.

"I am shocked that [a television-media interviewer] pats 'himself' and 'foundational' in the same vein, not realizing the (saving) impact of the latter. (We are trying to publish shocking stories pic of heritage sites that are being sold and destroyed or transformed into a different thing.)

"I am shocked that the house of Rizal's mother Trin Alberto House in Biñan, Laguna) was sold.

"I am surprised to see the passive that Escalta has existed in the City of Manila. I am surprised at how much affection the metropolis actually has for its former dowagers. I am genuinely touched by the perseverance and unwavering indomitability of the Escalta property owners.

"I am surprised to see more and more people realizing the importance of heritage conservation.

"I am surprised that the house Marcos House on Taft Avenue survives, by dint of will of the family Marcos Lim-Sim. The same goes for the Pablo Antonio House in Pasay, by-dint of will of Malu Antonio.

"I am surprised that the metropolis has six first heritage zone in Santa Ana. I am impressed that in the same way that Manila was the brainchild of the metropolis in the first place, Manila is the brainchild of the metropolis' second act.

"I am still amazed that the Heritage Bill—mark and all—is now a Republic Act (RA 10066, National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009)."

Ephemeral heritage

If there were to be a balance sheet for the state of heritage in the Philippines, it would most probably read that heritage in the Philippines is ephemeral. There was day gone the next.

Heritage does to have today is nostalgia: a nostalgia gone forever, but for the upsurge of heritage enthusiasts and professionals who have begun to make a difference, rather than waiting for the government to act.

These private organizations and individuals, despite their commitment to conserving heritage, are often rendered ineffectual when governed by development forces which ultimately come in to play.

Dialogue is needed. Heritage designation does not equate a property cannot be developed. However, financial expectations must change from the sky-being-the-limit in development to expectations closer to the ground, which are hopefully assisted with government incentives.

Until the dialogue and shared understanding of the interconnectivity of heritage, development, governmental assistance and that elusive quality of national pride, is reached, we shall probably continue to lose our heritage, further diluting what remains today.

Comments and feedback are welcome at philstar@gmail.com.

PHOENIX in the Philippines is (the) City centers, like this eight one, have become mere skyscrapers all over the Philippines.

'Handumanan' at UP Vargas

"Handumanan" exhibit opens on Oct. 11 at UP Vargas Museum (UPVM) Gallery, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Info: 8285 8527, e-mail vargasmuseum@gmail.com; or visit exhibition. "Handumanan" is a Visayan word meaning reunion with keepsake, memory and remembrance.

Works on exhibit are by Mark Justiniani, Mario Tanguinlo, Mark Valenzuela, Elena Rustia, Wesley Ong Briones, Orville De, Raul Agpao, Jesusa Bacolod, Paul Pfeiffer, Manny Montelibano, Jr. Imelda Arboleda, Brenda and Lambat Fajardo, Roberto Feleo and Federico Delotavo, Tony Delos-Paul Dalisay, Francisco Santiago, Faith Luzviminda and Eugenio Estabaya will also be on display.

Visual Arts

José Tence Ruiz, Camille de la Rosa at Art Informel

Oil paintings by José Tence Ruiz will be on show in Singkit Bi-Lingkit, II opens on Oct. 11 in Art Informel's Main Gallery (277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East Mandaluyong) on (2) 8570 0 or 8570 8982/8985. Following a trajectory that began in 1973 when he first cobbled together the various re-solution-recovery metaphor combining this theme with the progress in figurative creativity setting of Philippine cultural life.

Simultaneously exhibit is the Via Roy Rosario "Duo Session" featuring paintings by Camille de la Rosa. The artworks ask the questions: Who should inherit the world? Evangelical Theosophists and co-culprits like Ayn Rand prophets martyr the saints of mankind, enabling by their actions them as victims of a reaction-ridiculity, and encroaching to the nonsociale visions of those Lumbad-ism-ronists.

The exhibits run until Nov. 3.

Wilson, Paras, Miranda at Finale

Opening on Oct. 11 at Finale Art File are shows featuring paintings by Benhur Isidro Wilson, Lynyrd Paras and Kelvin Miranda.

San Francisco-based Wilson will present his second painting exhibition in the Philippines, "Tao Lohilang," at Finale Art File Gallery, filled with blooms, insects and bizarre landscapes. It all adds, Wilson's images seek to draw out the unconscious and interconnected links between the beings of this world.

Paras and M. Sarcia Gallery will present a solo exhibition of his new paintings. Miranda's new works will be on view in the Video Room.

All shows will be on view until Oct. 31 in Finale Art File (Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila). For more information, call 4102510 or 4102506; e-mail finale_artfile@yahoo.com; www.finaleartfile.com.

Abstract photographs at Ricco Renon

Marie Delgado's "Inform Abstracts," a series of abstract photographs, is on show at Ricco Renon (Unit 208, Mezzanine Glorietta 2, Makati City; www.riccorenonphotography.com/home.php) until Oct. 8.

La Naval de Manila: Sailing on with faith

By Fr. Virgilio Rizal Ojay, OP
Contributor

LA NAVAL de Manila is the oldest ivory icon in the country. The Marian feast's grand procession is on Oct. 14.

THE NOVENA to Our Lady of La Naval de Manila is once again being prayed at the Dominican Church, starting with the Enthronement of the historic image of Our Lady on Oct. 4 and culminating in a grand procession in the centennial by tens of thousands of devotees on Oct. 14.

Since this devotion have moved him so much to how heavy the rains would be pouring, no matter how thick and dark the clouds that hover above, as soon as the historic image of Our Lady of La Naval goes out of the Church for the procession, the rains would immediately cease to fall. Our Lady always manages victorious over the deluge of inclemency.

It does not come as a surprise because the devotion to Our Lady of La Naval is an offshoot of a series of victories over the tempests—not of the rain—but of the Dutch Armadas. The enemies—the neighbors turned equipped, more prepared fourth armada. The Dutch who had united Protestants from the Spaniards in 1642 wanted the Philippines, too.

In all, five battles were fought internationally from March 17, 1646, to Oct. 4 of the same year.

The Spanish-Filipino "armada" consisted of two infinity galleons (a newer galleon was added earlier-listed battle). The Dutch armadores had seven warships and two fireboats.

Despite being outnumbered and outgunned, the Philippine armada had no one up its sleeves: its power to battle turned with a strong faith manifested in the soldiers' incessant praying of the Rosary.

The results: A Dutch warship and the two fireboats sank to the bottom of the sea. The Filipino-Spanish fleet, on the other hand, remained intact, with only few casualties. Faith, indeed, worked.

Nature of faith

What is this faith, and where did it come from?

Faith comes to us as a divine light emanating from God's mysterious presence in every man and woman. The divine light so like into our deepest self as inner reflection, as intuition which leads us, friends no less to God. Spiritual writers call this by many names—light of faith, divine instinct, as we were praying.

The light of faith, or whatever we prefer to call it, is a divine instinct helps us to discern and recognize the things that come from God. It enables us to believe that God called a people to salvation starting from Abraham, to Christ free from the slavery of Egypt through the leadership of Moses, led them to the Promised Land, to lead them to us on to the Lord through the voices of the Prophets whenever they became unfaithful, and sealed their salvation through the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When we speak, or when our minds fully accept these revelations, and when we act according to the demands of these revealed truths, we can say we make an act of faith as a response to the divine initiator or the one we praying, which is God's invitation for man to have an intimate relationship with him.

Eventually this faith consists in the belief that God's power is at work in the world and in human affairs, including each person's affair. As one theologian states, "God pitched His tent in the midst of human history."

The assurance or presence of winning a battle in spite of blatant inadequacies, defending an empire with superior strength, bolsters one's faith. From that experience means a greater awareness, a stronger faith that God, indeed, intervenes in human history to defend the weak, to ensure justice, to promote peace, to realize what is good.

Peculiarly Catholic

Part of that faith, which is peculiarly Catholic, is the belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary intercedes on our behalf so that God can perform miracles in our midst.

More than historical victory of 1646, a timely intervention in favor of Our Lady of the Rosary of La Naval a held in Sto. Domingo, now at Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Although there are no more battles to be fought at the moment, there are other needs which the people ask Our Lady to intercede for: cure of various ailments; passing board examinations; success of business endeavors; safety of relatives working abroad. For many, the odds are insurmountable. These personal battles cannot be won by simply relying on the available resources within the powers of man.

One example of a personal battle won through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary of La Naval is a young man's struggle against cholithroa AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

The mother of Our Lady had to be flown to the United States where the young man was undergoing treatment at great expense for the family which led to struggle to cope with the exorbitant cost of the healing process. The Lady's relatives were used to cover him in his needs and helpless as he lied.

As his condition grew, the young man showed signs of renewed strength that eventually led to his complete recovery.

Although the medical intervention was not stopped, the young man and his family who are regular churchgoers and infant devotees of Our Lady attribute his recovery to Divine Providence through the intercession of Our Lady of La Naval.

Assured of victory

Indeed, in human life, many times people experience having to deal with so-called human and moral calamities, where conditions adverse to man are beyond his power to overcome. One way to face it is to remain passive and helpless and let the circumstances take over. But affirming the virtues to meet the best to which heaven does not to the wind brings it.

But there is another way. To believe that in the daily occurrences in the world and in man, there is a divine plan unfolding and realizing itself. In the fulfillment of that Plan, there is a divine power at work.

Every saint or veneration may always try to elevate how his or her life can have parts of that Christ-likes and what better time is our present Lenten situation more suited in order to do so than Christ-like. Every man or woman can always ask in prayer for what he or she wants in life,

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Verano and Pacena II in 'Scenic Formations' at JIV Manila

AFTER A long hiatus, veteran painter Francisco M. Verano makes a comeback in a much-awaited exhibit that will feature some of his artworks dating back to the 1970s at the start of his career up to the present, at the JIV Manila Art Gallery, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.

"Scenic Formations" will showcase Verano's signature landscape paintings that vary from impressionist to expressionist and abstraction.

The exhibit will be complemented by the video installations of contemporary artist J. Pacena II.

The artists explore subtle permutations in landscape. They interpret it as an evolving place and so an experience that shifts with the passing of time. To experience the unfolding of landscape is to bear witness to a process of a world beyond the self, and to bear witness to a process native only for us to be registered in memory. The artists' observation heightens intimacy as part of their personal subjects and as a mode of introspection.

"Scenic Formations" is JIV Manila's first curatorial partnership project with independent management organization Creating Space (Sustainable Practices in Artistic and Cultural Endeavors) Inc. under the Solaris Program, which aims to provide different platforms for artistic discourse in contemporary art and promote discursive and productive interaction between artists and viewers.

Born in 1937, Verano graduated with a degree in Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. A visual artist who has explored different media in painting and sculpture, Verano has exhibited extensively both locally and abroad.

He has received several awards, including: First Prize in sculpture, given by the Art Association of the Philippines (1960) and Best Landscape Award in the 24th AAP Annual Art Competition (1971).

A graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, Pacena II is a multimedia artist, an independent curator, and a teacher at the Asia-Pacific College-School of Multimedia Arts. He has participated in solo and group exhibitions locally and abroad.

His curatorial projects have extended from Manila, Japan and Australia. In 2010, he was a grantee of the Saitama Prefecture Creators sponsored by the Japan Foundation.

The exhibition will run until Nov. 3. Call Judith Magalong at 7807880 or 0943951. JIV Manila Art Gallery is at 2/F CE Bldg., 43 Visayas Ave., Quezon City. Visit www.jivmanilaart.com.

"UNTITLED," by Francisco M. Verano

"TREES in Summer," by Verano

BY J. RICIDIA S

Olazo's anthuriums to luxuriate at Ayala

PADIU GALLERY will unveil Reinabe Olazo's new suite of paintings, the "Anthurium Architecture" series, at the ArtistSpace of Ayala Museum (*Makati Avenue cor. De la Rosa Street, beside Greenbelt 3, Makati*).

The anthurium is one of the figural themes Olazo has explored as part of his abstract subjects known as the Diaphanous paintings. For Olazo, the flower is iconic and schematic of form and balance that have united his investigation and homage through a suite of several works.

Olazo is known to have taken after the modernism of Victorio Manansala and Cesar Legaspi. In 2009, a 40-year retrospective of Olazo's paintings was held at Ayala Museum.

"Diaphanous Anthuriums" is a long-running project for Olazo, and this exhibit marks one of the few occasions that he has returned on the years.

"Diaphanous Anthuriums" opens with cocktails on Oct. 12, 6 p.m., at ArtistSpace, and will run until Oct. 25.

Call 7861174, 09173240862, 0922.8218202, e-mail padiugallery@gmail.com, padiugallery@yahoo.com.

"DIAPHANOUS ANTHURIUMS" II-CLXXXIV

"DIAPHANOUS ANTHURIUMS" CII, CIII

"DIAPHANOUS ANTHURIUMS" 90

La Naval de Manila . . .

Front page C2

but always hoping that what is prayed for is in accord with God's plan.

True faith, while believing that God can do something according to our wishes, also concedes that, at times, God cannot give us all that we ask for in both measures, there should be a conviction that everything God does and does not do for us is always for our good.

Now I ask you with our own battles in life, and as we lay them before the throne of Our Lady of La Naval de Manila, like the five battles of 1646, we can always be assured of victory if we have the faith that tells us that God and Our Lady want only the best for us.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

(ET) TANGKAD sa Guido Contini, the Italian filmmaker beset by midlife crisis in the Broadway musical "Nine," with music and lyrics by Maury Yeston and book by Arthur Kopit. The Manila production was directed by Bobby Garcia for Atlantis Productions.

12 women, one man, zero passion– 'Nine' in a nutshell

The musical's already fuzzy center just about disappeared with fatal miscasting

By Gilda Caulo

"LA BELLA COMPLESSO" was the original title Federico Fellini wanted to give his film that eventually became "8 1/2," which does become the unabridged basis for the 1982 Tony-winning throwback musical "Nine" that has music and lyrics by Maury Yeston and book by Arthur Kopit (with some clues from Mario Fratti's Italian play "Sin Parecemos Mismos").

The phrase translates into "the beautiful confusion," and that's where the term chaotic-bi comes to you can say of the Manila production, directed by Bobby Garcia for his Atlantis Productions, which just ended its three-weekend run at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium of RCBC Plaza in Makati City.

The beauty came chiefly from two elements: the massive Roman-built set by David Gallo that visually expanded the stage to soaring dimensions; and the constellation of female stars that populated this scenery—some of the finest specimens of Filipino pulchritude and talent on stage and pop entertainment today, in fact: Meredith Lauchengco-Pahr, Carla Guevara-Laksmana, Cherie Gil, Bela Padilla, Ina Cayetano, Jay Valencia-Glorioso, even Ingrimm starlet Ara Mina and Sarah Lahbati.

Whenever these ladies occupied their respective perches up and down the multi-level set, a stunning vision materialized—that of a proud goose on which the hero male character, the film director Guido Contini (Art Pengco), seemed to have arranged his many women in his life, predestined to be displayed, worshipped, humiliated and also, whenever needed, kept at a safe, gentle remove.

Debonair and dissolute

The confusion, on the other hand—well, where to begin? "Nine" isn't the most cohesive musical to come with, its individually distinct songs for each character or set piece adding up to a sprawling, revue-like (if also stylish and adventurous) whole. That already fuzzy center, however, just about disappeared here with fatal miscasting.

Pengco as Guido, the tormented, midlife-haunted filmmaker that Marcello Mastroianni

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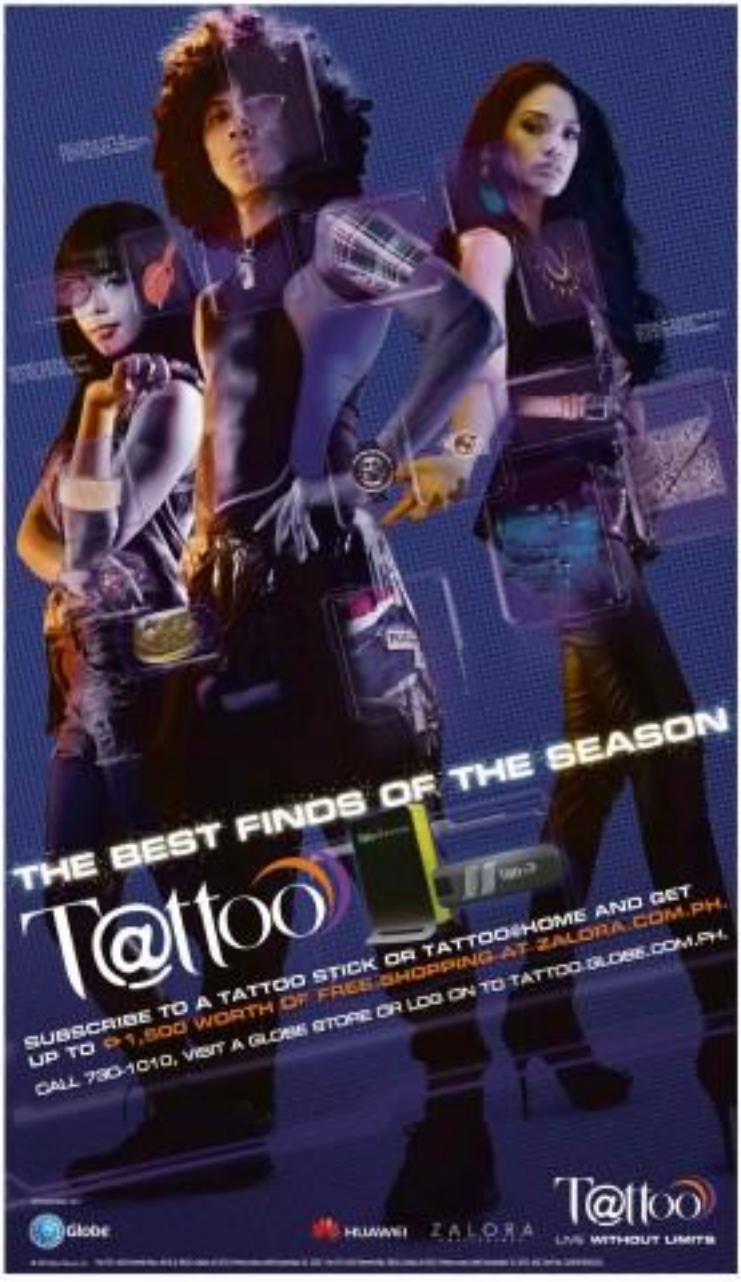
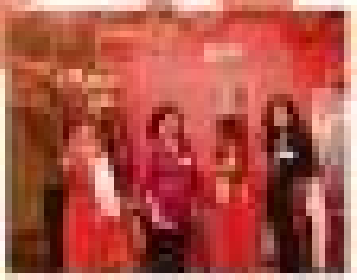
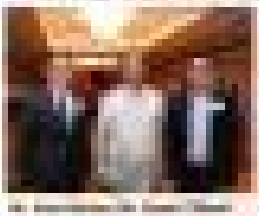
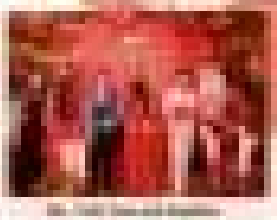


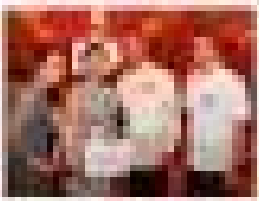
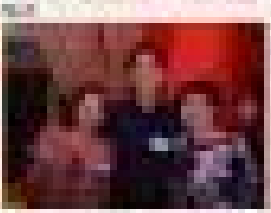
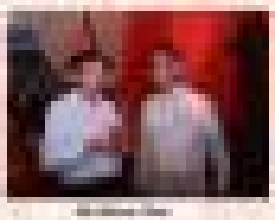
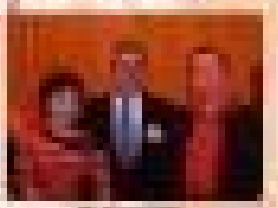
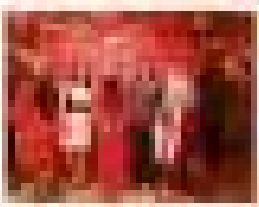
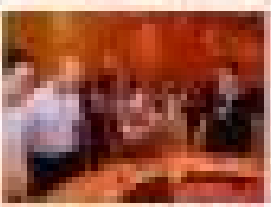
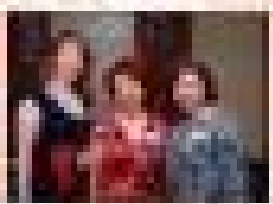
A Mid-Autumn Festival night to remember

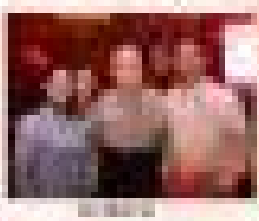
BPI treats Chinese clients to a Mooncake Festival

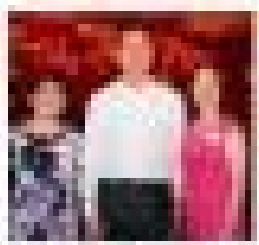
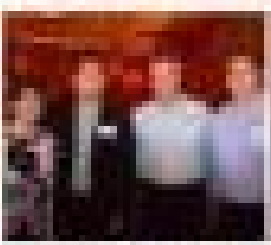
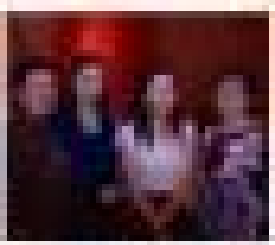








BPI Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, BPI President and CEO Aurelio Montinola III and BPI Officers treat clients to a celebration of friendship, shared tradition and over a hundred years of partnership.

TP mounts Mario O'Hara's last play, 'Stageshow,' opening Oct. 10

By Amado Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IN THE DAYS of yore, the comedian Complito made a name for himself in the entertainment world, modeling his antics after the great Charlie Chaplin, "the clowned tramp."

Also, he was not very original, and his star began to fade in the bashful ensuite-belle and the stupefiers were becoming tiresome.

During the early 1960s, the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) came on with the acclaimed play about the rise and fall of Complito. Pr. was soon featured in Celebrity magazine, edited by Rosario A. Concellano and Norma Olivas.

Writer Jose Maglipon investigated Complito in his humble image, and his in-depth article did, in retrospect, justice to the man.

Dances of the era will be performed, like the mambo, cupi dance, bishop and the twist

Maglipon brought Complito a bagful of mangoes. The elderly comedian was profuse in his thanks, then instructed a young relative: "Salit mo ito, ang ang tapusin pinkerbis, it is not this... ano!."

The late Complito was one of many stars who survived feudalism and the stupefiers; then it fell into hard times, confronting from province to province, bottles to bottles, outside (permit), plazas, festivals, and decrepit theaters in Manila and the regions.

They would do comedy skits, stupefied dance numbers, dramas, variety shows. Pasyon (Passion Play) excepts, to their fortune declined, some of the masters became bookkeeper spoons and circus freaks.

Celebrities

Of course, there were those who became celebrities, like Bayani Casimiro, Gemma Montes, Elizabeth Ramsey, Oscar Obligacion, Chickey, Beatriz, and Dogie and Tiger.

The troupe of Tchin la Teen and Ellen Gonzales were also part of that era, from the 1950s to the mid 1960s.

Ellen was a formally trained soprano (University of Santo Tomas Conservatory) who had a knack for comedy, and so she became a popular TV star.

Ellen's role in "Sweep" (pictured), speaking novelize from Cinderella, also had a strong stupidness and perse crudeness.

Hans Tantiongco were not that romantic and had limited education. Their twilight years were marked by hardships and poverty.

Official entry

There stories have been made into a play, titled "Stageshow," by the late actor-writer-director Jesus O'Hara. It will be mounted by Tanghalang Pilipino, the resident drama group of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino Theater.

The dates are Oct. 10-14 and Oct. 17-21 (tel. 8521125 local 1626-31). There will be 5 p.m. matinees on weekend dates.

Gala night is on Oct. 13; it will be a tribute to surviving stupefiers and their families.

"Stageshow" is also an official entry to the National Theater Festival in November.

Directed by Chris Millado, with musical direction by Jeffrey Hernandez, choreography by Denise Bonoc, set design by Lawrence Mate, costume design by Brenda Fajardo, and lighting design by Kathalia Cabay.

Notable leads, support

The leads are the husband-and-wife team Hosea and Shamaine Contreras Bautista. Contreras (with Rosalyn Conlimbo and Liezl Sumaya as alternates).

Bautista (also and Contreras play Tiktik and Bellas, respectively, known for a time who are remarried 10 years later).

There is a supporting cast of notables, such as Mel Bayot, Mae Paner, Angelica Panganiban, Lou Veloso, Andy Vece and Jonathan Tadioan.

And there will be non-stop stupefier numbers, like dances Joel Lamangan as the Singing Zombies and Soy Alcuaz, serving out her forthcoming role as bashful queen Kitty de la Cruz.

Dances of the era will be performed, like the mambo, cupi dance, bishop and the twist.

"I took a strong cue from the storytelling of Mario," Millado said. "Drama-drama, then songs and dances, back and forth."

"Stageshow: Aping Pinas: 20 to 60," exclaimed Contreras. "It's democratic, everybody and everything is out... and we are not that familiar with the dances."

"I had to learn how to tap-dance again," put in Bautista-Contreras. "And then the number... passing 100. Mael Mario to playing a joke on the actors, pero namiyo (it) fun and lovely!"

12 women, one man, zero passion—'Nine' in a nutshell

From page D1

is organized in "8 1/2," based a series unconventionally problems. For the past, "Nine could've been white to Sondheim and never seems to have grown it a thought," declared Roger Ebert (quite apt that the best appraisal of the past of a film directed by Rob Marshall).

Both Raul Julia and Antonio Banderas, the 1982 original and the 2003 revised Guidos, on Broadway, embodied Lotte Lenya and ostensibly which made them persuasive choices to inhabit the role of a world-famous Italian movie mastodonland, at 40, by a high-pressure life of films, hotels, life, women, money (and all that Cinecitta jazz).

Guido, in other words, called for debonair and dandiest to equal measure. Reagan could do neither. Strange, this must appear to be the smallest, squarest rock star there is. Reagan and his rock band The Sirens are going to strong as cover bands go, but they're not the kind of group you'd ever think that's how they'd be described by a movie star. Hard rock and subverted his Guido at every turn.

Lovely menagerie

Reagan himself said a move from months ago to "Rocket Age," also by Antonio Guido's film The Scott Guidobaldi, "We wanted to see Guido's fantasies and nightmare." That sounded promising, but Reagan's Guido is not enough to make a woman happy," to be honest in a lot, "you rely on what any women have with. Because it is in your blood."[1] But there was none of the charming, comic, flirty nature that would, of the very least, explain why the men want to be with the menagerie of lovely, formidable women squeezing all over him. Sure gesture—Hello—or Guido's end, "Hate" Guido to come.

The musical is essentially an operatic revue centered not on one Guido-character but on Guido's many women, serving as song-tapping interludes of vanity, memory and history in his head. One could imagine, say, Hosea Bautista-Contreras (Penthi in Gascon's 2004 staging of "A Little Night Music") holding this role more music, actually weight.

Without it—with Reagan's thorough unable to evoke a genuine sense of center or mid more subtle—the musical's weakness, where Guido is saved from self-destruction by his nine-year-old self, felt unearned, the emotional journey that would have justified all the angst just exchanged this sale of spartan.

Incoherent kid singing

Still, if it's any consolation to Reagan, he wasn't the only one who looked and felt out of fitting role. Velez, handsome as Guido's mother-lover sister Claudia Sarah, simply couldn't sing her part—and what basis, beside that Lisa character, had the musical's most rewarding song? "Unusual Way"?).

From Maggie Gyllenhaal and Judi Dench, other actors, even those who don't exude a sense in which sounded like a basically pitched semi-classical voice, one instantly left Velez out in the struggle.

Not that she couldn't sing. The long-running "Isolde Zaltzmann Di Stadt" was proof enough that she possesses such a voice. Even her Saraghina, a character of shouty fun that they are tickled fat—and and pop. But she was called for something quite beyond Velez' range.

In the Broadway revival, Liam Neeson's gloss-sing a queue near a long was treated getting "Unusual Way" to sound pretty, but Velez' style was kinky, exaggerated and Rita she went distressingly flat, while holding the note besides, at the end of the long sounding line. "You're the reason WHY..."

Plus if an older female Rita? Nothing. But she is the only one who sings and she flubbed that note both times.

More than the misdirected singing, however, was Velez' apparent discomfort with the song...her self-assumedly ability to put the musical heatwave over with the kind of storytelling insight and heart you usually find in well-trained musical theater actors—do such passable.

Effortless standouts

The exception, for instance—Lauchengco-Yulo as Guido's stalwart wife Louis. Yulo is Gloriano to his mother, and the Avalona Gloriano Lauchengco as his mistress Carla—were effortless standouts. (Sure brief hints in the spotlight marred by piercing chirpy and unfixity).

Yet could argue, in fact, that Lauchengco-Yulo was also miscast as Luisa, a part that tumped down the actress' strong presence and refined radiance. Did and of Guido's many women Rita was the only one with a Mediterranean (Claudia in red 8½, a figure said to be based on Pellini's "La Dolce Vita" era Anita Ekberg, hence Glenda Edmund's Seattle-looking Claudia Jennings—changed from Seattle—in the 2009 movie version, in "8 1/2" the part was played by Italian-based Claudia Cardinale).

And, in her hands, of course, "Unusual Way" would have had a luckier fate.

Then again, hearing Lauchengco-Yulo herein "My Husband Makes Movies" into a three-act drama of suspicion, misunderstanding, betrayal, and love in Act 2, release all that pent-up emotion in a burst of unbridged fury in "Be on Your Own," one understood why Gemma had to make her this "Nine"s Luisa. Who else could do the part?

Only Lauchengco-Yulo held his own in the numbers like producer Liliane La Fleur, even if one could barely breathe every time her sexy voice threatened to go out. But this was one part that required splendor more than pretty vocals. Liliane Montevecchi isn't here because she quite the showgirl when they sounded Broadway with this role, and all was wanting in her "Follies Bergere" number.

Thrilling spectacle

"Nine"s' sort-of nirvana, "Be Italian," went to Cookie as Saraghina. The Bottom outside prostitute who would seduce young Guido into oblivion.

In Tommy Tune's original staging, the lights-and-smoke and the gaggle of gorgeous-undressed boys, making with her writhing thing is shy nonsense known disguised as a naturelle nuisance among tambourines. (The English translation of the Italian lines "Kids! Listen up! How you'll learn the tarantella—the most sensational dance in the world! The dance that awakens passion and love!").

David Leveaux's 2003 revival ditched the kids and opted for a more realistic setup—Bandroom and the young Guido showing its tandem as they interviewed with Silvio Lauretta Taylor's Saraghina, in a seedy hotel (or more Dody) and really, in the world of Bloody Mary. The tambourines were gone, too, the Guidettes would be dressed by Saraghina as a sort of thief, with the young Guido feeling about and scrambling on the sand, crabbing in the Med before the end of the day.

Guerra not only removed the tambourines in his "Nine," he also transformed "Be Italian" into the thing spectacle, taking a leaf from the Broadway revision Rob Marshall had choreographed for the movie to a cut-round stage (with Reagan gallantly in "Nine"-appropriate in the red setting the midcentury, and the previous exercise-cum-menstrual-ing they would launch into because the show's most rousing showstopper.

Head-scratchers

Even the period number, however, provoked head-scratching. "Be Italian" clearly came across as below Cookie's vocal comfort zone. This "Miss Saigon" shimmies it a powerful high belter, but here, against no money Or, her long power bounded oddly clipped. She sounded like a very sexy Lucy trying to get the pods on (the A singer! She is lousy!") because the notes were still too low for her.

A further dampen on Cuneo's turn was Robin Trotter performing costume for Saraghina—a sinuous, full-body number with a leather corset, stockings—and high heels. This cartoon woman lived on the beach (the benign Lauchengco-Yulo's harmless and sparsely dressed), who was Cookie dressed up like a city streetwalker!

Visual cues

The baffling visual cues also extended to Laurel's Orphanage Sweepstakes, who, in faux-high white boots, white shorts and white jacket under a '60s bouffant hairdo, made for a striking vintage fashion plate.

The juxtaposition, perhaps, was less Hadwen's Stephanie as the storm version. But that character had good reason to glow top: Hadwen was playing a supporting role for American Singapore—a significant change from the original character in the musical, who is represented by a film crew ("Thanks to him," she is treated at one point, referring to Guido, "we have boredom at the movies!"), and more sensational as Liliane La Fleur.

And not even tiffin-title for something fashion top, but the remarkable Gaddes in Cinema! The Mistakenly Found's magazine first edited by André Bazin that spawned the pillars of the French New Wave—Truffaut, Godard, Chabrol, Rohmer, Rivette—and the auteur theory and naming the idea of a glamorous filmgoer the word didn't exist there) is to make nothing personal revolutionary of Howard Hawks and Nicholas Ray.

On the Broadway revival, Brandon Jennings in Stephanie stepped over during the "Follies Bergere" number and, in the process, stumbling the idea of a glamorous filmgoer the word didn't exist there) is to make nothing personal revolutionary of Howard Hawks and Nicholas Ray.

On the Broadway revival, Brandon Jennings in Stephanie stepped over during the "Follies Bergere" number and, in the process, stumbling the idea of a glamorous filmgoer the word didn't exist there) is to make nothing personal revolutionary of Howard Hawks and Nicholas Ray.

Problematic elements

"Nine"s' problematic central elements—Reagan's muddled Guido, Velez' disorienting costumes, and Guerra's fitful direction—would work their perfect course of this throw-in. On one of its aspects conjecture "The Grand Canal" to "Be Italian" to "Unusual Way" to Guido's unflagging singing ("Overture Delle Stesse" had jumpstarted the show on a high note), the musical all but degenerated into a tinsky, empty public.

The right memorable, of Reagan thundering about, hands pounding on his head, and Velez' Lisa, in her second number, sang-sensed lines—Guido! Don't be in action, get it!—will possibly go down as the least entertaining "Nine" ever been asked to do onstage.

Finally, for what felt like an interminable month during the "Grand Finale" moment, the two most human characters in "Nine"—Lauchengco-Yulo's Luisa and Gemma-Lakshmi's Guida—would be blocked with their backs to the audience, their reactions to the pantsuit semi-autobiographical Guarnero movie and its possibly second run being an object of puzzlement to the rest of us.

"La Belle Confusione" were more plainly "confusione."

E-mail gcole@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gcole.multiply.com. Follow on Twitter @gilbertcole

Pasig City vocal-choral tournament now accepting registrants

By Antonio C. Hla
Feed Editor

PASIG (09) (HMB), a vocal and choral competition in Pasig City now accepts applicants to its 14th edition. It is sponsored by the Pasig City government to highlight its celebrations of the Fiesta.

The vocal side to open socks, ready to Pasig City residents by both Children and Open categories. Contestants under the Children category must be born on 31st years of age. For the Open category, contestants must be 16 years of age and above.

The choral competition is open to choral groups in Metro Manila and from nearby provinces such as Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Cavite, Bulacan. It is held for two categories: Children choir and Open. The age range for Children is 7-13 years and 14 years and above for the Open category.

Registration is until Dec. 30.

The elimination round will be held in Pasig City Museum on Nov. 6, for the Children category; Nov. 7 for the Vocal Solo for Open category; and Nov. 8 for the Choir Open category.

Finals will be held on Dec. 21 for the Children, Solo and Choral categories; Dec. 22, for the Vocal Solo and Open categories; and Dec. 14, for Choral Open category, at the San Nicolas Parish Plaza, Pasig City.

Pasig City Mayor Soledad C. Bautista started the competition in 1996. It has since become an annual tradition eagerly awaited by vocal-choral enthusiasts and plum music-lovers in Pasig City, as well as Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Events management is by Typhoon Online. It is now held biannually.

Manfred Bautista, wife of Vice Mayor C. Bautista, chairs the Committee on Tourism, assisted by Councilor Louis A. Bernardo and Noel T. Rivera, head of the Cultural Affairs and Tourism Office.

All finalists will go home with a prize. For Vocal Solo, the top three prizes are P45,000, P35,000 and P25,000. A consolation prize of P15,000 will be given to each finalist.

For the choral competition for Children and Open categories, the top three prizes are P50,000, P30,000, and P20,000. A consolation prize of P5,000 will be given to each finalist.

For details, visit Pasig Mayor's secretariat at the Tanghalang Pasigueño, 8 AM-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Contact Judy Santos or Marilou Santos at 6280778 and 6280779.

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Enrile's real 'inamorata': Witnessing the progress of his memoirs

Story on page E2

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SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TAGLISH BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

THIS DAY TODAY In love, you are the center of attention. Be careful not to overdo it. Your career is favored now. You have a vivid imagination, and you are also practical. You have a keen sense of humor and are a natural-born leader. You are a perfectionist and tend to be critical of others. Your lucky numbers are 4, 11, 20, 25, and 31. Your lucky colors are blue, green, and violet.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is a great day to socialize. Get together with friends and family. Do something fun. Don't be afraid to show off your talents. Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 1, 10, 19, 28, and 37. Your lucky colors are red, white, and blue.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Pay attention to detail. Don't overlook anything important. Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 2, 11, 20, 29, and 38. Your lucky colors are green, brown, and black.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 3, 12, 21, 30, and 39. Your lucky colors are yellow, orange, and red.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is a great day to socialize. Get together with friends and family. Do something fun. Don't be afraid to show off your talents. Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 4, 13, 22, 31, and 40. Your lucky colors are white, silver, and gray.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You have a unique perspective on life. Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 5, 14, 23, 32, and 41. Your lucky colors are gold, orange, and yellow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 6, 15, 24, 33, and 42. Your lucky colors are navy blue, gray, and white.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have a unique perspective on life. Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 7, 16, 25, 34, and 43. Your lucky colors are pink, green, and blue.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 8, 17, 26, 35, and 44. Your lucky colors are black, red, and maroon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have a unique perspective on life. Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 9, 18, 27, 36, and 45. Your lucky colors are purple, blue, and green.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 10, 19, 28, 37, and 46. Your lucky colors are brown, black, and gray.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You have a unique perspective on life. Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 11, 20, 29, 38, and 47. Your lucky colors are blue, green, and violet.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You have a unique perspective on life. Be careful not to overdo it. Your lucky numbers are 12, 21, 30, 39, and 48. Your lucky colors are white, silver, and gray.

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Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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5			2			9		3
	3		7			1		
	2		3					
9		6				8		4
				6		3		
	1			3		7		
3		9			8			1
	8		6				2	5

Difficulty Level 4

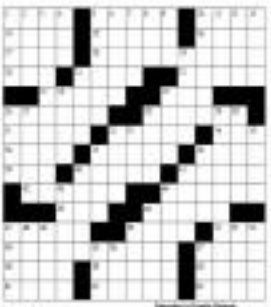
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

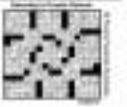
ACROSS

1. Edmonds
7. Throwing flavor
10. Baby carrier
11. Mendel's memorial
12. Links without fairways
13. Infinite
14. Wanderer's dollar
15. Mnemonic maxim
16. Hidden agenda
17. Algebra, for one
18. Architectural projections
19. Rancher
20. Actors try on to make sufficient
26. Rock
27. Penniless
31. Dairy
32. Hard contents
34. Suffix for wolf or York
35. Can't keep up
36. Participant
37. In a different way
38. Walmart's essential
39. ___ staff; on a person
41. Ball provider/test-eaters
42. In short supply
43. Sweet, as wine
44. Avon's marking word
46. Cicero's first word, perhaps
47. Like school paper
50. Complete collection
51. Academic investment
54. Acts of penance
55. Dissolve
56. Hangs-on-networking
57. Rhyme scheme of "Annabel Lee"
58. "It's a Mystery Madness!"
59. Harrowing

DOWN

1. Arabic continent
2. Gain like
3. Hemingway's last
4. Gaming cubes
5. Wasted
6. Change
7. Kicker
8. Financial auditor: abbr.
9. Small ridge
10. Night
11. Wars
12. Old main Gen.
13. Fall behind
14. Pie producers
17. Mystery Mountains
18. Serve again
19. Word with fly or wood
20. Buttermilk's kin
21. Commissions
22. Mr. Ed's pal
23. Snare goal
24. Hospitality alternative
25. Swimmer with a stroke
27. Walmart
28. Latin greeting
29. Tin-bearing
30. Body as a fortress
33. Boiling point
40. Dr. or TOKEN
41. "It..." book
43. Sparkling water
44. Reshape
45. Mixed bird
47. Ooh
48. Sun
49. Eye language
52. Ms. Lupino
53. Ltr. addendum





Enrile's real 'inamorata': Witnessing the progress of his memoirs

By Erlinda Enriquez Pantilo
Contributor

SINCE THE 1980s, a close circle of friends and I would be at the Ponce Enrile residence for Saturday evening Mass in the Filipino' private chapel Cristian Iault, for she was a very pious woman, whose piety and many charitable good works would one day be researched with the legal award, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

She had also served once as Ambassador to the Holy See. We would join them for dinner in their elegant dining room with a long rectangular dining table seating 16, beneath crystal chandeliers.

Juan Ponce Enrile would be at the enthusiastic memories, as I heard him once call her, to his left. To JPE's right, in the place of honor, would be the priest who celebrated the Mass.

Dinner conversation would inevitably turn to the book JPE had been working on for three or more years. I would ask him: "Sabong, whose are you now in your autobiography?"

Once, he announced: "I'm now in the

[illegible] years!"

He explained he himself had typed the draft portion of the [illegible] on his super writer in his study at their Urdaneta Village residence when they were living there in the '70s. He didn't want it to leak out, he said.

Turning to us, he said he could never forget how, at a large function in Bhubaneshwar's Harvard Hall, at the beginning of martial law, the First Lady made the grievous error of wearing shorts and dance the hula. She ridiculous image of Gemenda Espino, Rajendo, Romeo, Zagala and Admiral Bay wearing Spanish and swallowing to babies' heads, was obviously still so vivid in his mind. He said he was so disappointed.

Agreeing, Cristina exclaimed: "One word, Talisman!"

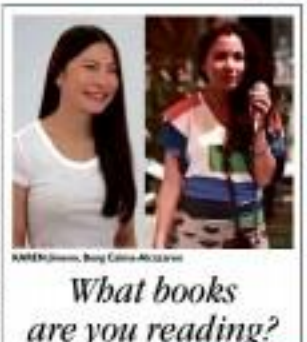
She had a way of making us laugh with her funny rhymes. On one occasion, when JPE reported to her he had forgotten to say something in someone before that person left for abroad, she exclaimed, "Oh Daddy, it's too late, chocolate."

Because the biography was my genre when I took my MA in Creative Writing in University of the Philippines, I was most curious to know how JPE was writing his memoirs. I offered my unsolicited advice that he should include setting, description, and dialogue and create scenes. (Not he shouldn't just summarize. Of course, all these I learned from my faculty and thesis advisor, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo.)

Sadly, it turns out I needn't have worried. Certain parts of his book, to God, read like a novel. I am impressed with his ability to recall and describe in detail how Agnes looked like in those days, mentioning the names of the persons who had touched his life.

I interviewed at his prodigious memory, and asked him if he had kept a journal. He said he had notes of important events and his impressions of them.

He had intended to be a few times here the Japanese prison where he was incarcerated and tortured him, how he was tortured, and how he escaped. When he had become famous as all in his book, a veritable page-turner. I urge everyone to read it.



KAREN Jimenez, Bong Cabrera-Alcazaren

What books are you reading?

Karen Jimenez
Lawyer
My bedside reading list:
"Virus of Doom"—This book is an inquiry into the relationship between freedom and economics by Milton Friedman and Rose Friedman. I find Friedman to be a brilliant economist, so I picked up this book.

I recently finished reading "Lords of Finance," by Liaquat Ahamed, which is about the history of monetary and financial policy. I find economics and finance interesting so I usually keep a book related to one of these subjects by my bedside for leisure reading.

"Communicating & Appreciation: Notes on the Civil Code, Volume II, Property," by Arturo Tolentino—I think Property Law is one of the big gaps in my knowledge by reading the latest Supreme Court decisions and the commentaries of different authorities on the subject. I find Tolentino's commentaries helpful because he goes into the historical background of several Civil Code provisions on property. I teach Property Law on Mondays, so this is a book I usually read on Saturday nights.

"A Short History of Nearly Everything," by Bill Bryson—This is one of my favorite books of all time. I love history and, as the title suggests, his talks about the history of almost everything (chemistry, geology, physics, geography). I'll never get tired of reading this book, that's why I always keep it here. I sometimes bring it with me when I travel.

Bong Cabrera-Alcazaren
Drip band singer-songwriter, advertising executive

Currently reading "Santa Fe Stories," by Bobbidinga Allan Gardner. It is an inspiring read that reveals the flaws and weaknesses of saints, affirming the truth that "virtue is made perfect in infirmity." It also encourages me to be better despite my own defects. Jaud reminds me that being good is attainable.

Compiled by Doris C. Reyes

BEDSIDE READING

Tanghalang Pilipino's silver anniversary coffee-table book now available

By Walter Ang
Contributor

TANGHALANG PILIPINO has produced a coffee-table book, "Tanghalang Pilipino: Celebrating 25 Years of Philippine Theater," to commemorate its recently concluded silver anniversary.

Spearheaded by artistic director Fernando "Soc" Josef and written by Inquirer contributing writer Amadis Ma. Guerrero, the 171-page hardcover features a jacket with the image of actress Noemi Manikan-Tiongco in costume as the character Ingrid, in Nick "Ombugang Bulol," the company's inaugural production in June 1987.

Her photo is enfolded with sketches of the production's set design in a manner that recalls the style of TP founding artistic director Felix "Nonoy" Sta.Ilda's monologues during his many of the company's early successful program curtains.

The book is divided into chapters which "deal with material that provided the company with its unique identity."

It begins with the group's history, an overview of "developing a national theater [group] that would develop original Philippine plays and mount translated foreign works"; and the demands behind its original and updated logos.

Different theater faction TP has staged are discussed: awkwardly (the indigenized Filipino theaters from "well-made and distant" that evolved from the Spanish sarsuela); original musicals (with subject matter as diverse that range from historical pieces and films to Indigenous epics and out-and-out native chants; and even comic book genre-challenging superheroines), and plays that mirror societal issues (from political outbursts to personal relationships and everything in between).

Guerrero gives summaries and histories of selected scripts or librettos, quotes from key reviews with a by production/ respective directors and other collaborators, and excerpts of reviews published at the time of the productions.

The book reveals the inner workings and processes undergone by the backstage disciplines, featuring composers, musicians, set designers, costume designers, and lighting designers who have worked on TP productions.

The book concludes with a section that showcases the actor, specifically the kind of actor nurtured in the TP spirit.

Padilla's creation of the Actors Company (ACT), the group's pool of vetalized actors who perform in season productions and occasionally train in performance workshops, has since been one of the defining elements of TP.

Josef was part of the pioneer batch of Actors (personally invited by Padilla). Partner TP artistic director Herbert "Herbie" Go was also in the ACT interface. Other former Actors Company member on to acclaim as actors for stage, TV and film, or administrators of other theater groups.

Call 8521120 loc. 1820-21, 0917-7000107, 09158950949, 2345763. E-mail tanghalangpilipino@gmail.com or http://www.tanghalangpilipino.com.ph

ALBERTO Rodriguez

Renowned Spanish director Alberto Rodriguez featured in Película film fest

TOP SPANISH director Alberto Rodriguez will appear today at Película, the 11th Spanish Film Festival, at Greenbelt 3 Cinemas in Makati City.

Rodriguez will be presented by the Instituto Cervantes de Manila as part of its Encuentros en el Cine program for the festival.

Rodriguez will present his latest full-feature film, the gritty, realistic thriller "Unique 7" (Until 7) tonight at 7...at Cinema 2 of Greenbelt 3, and will be participating in a discussion with the audience after the screening of the film.

"Unique 7," which has made it to Spain's three-picture shortlist for its foreign-language Oscar candidate this year, is about a group of cops who break all the rules to clean up Spain's police in the '80s. Set in the years preceding the Seville World Exposition of 1992, the story reflects the cultural events, starting in 1987, in which Seville frantically began preparation for the world stage of Expo '92.

The film stars veteran Spanish actor Antonio de la Torre and Spanish heartthrob Mario Casas.

Call 3261482, visit http://manila.cervantes.es or www.pelicula.ph.

FROM BOOK TO FILM

'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen'

EWAN McGregor

PAUL TORDAY was nudging 40 when he wrote his first novel. But now it's a film starring Ewan McGregor.

To the aspiring novelist, Torday is a person long he had his first story published in a women's magazine in 1985. Then, for four decades, there was nothing apart from a couple of efforts doomed weekly early of the bottom drawer. The theory that, launching on his 40th birthday, he finally had the literary ambition was an absurd a notion as, say, filming his salmon in the Yemen.

"Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" was published in 2007. The film version, starring McGregor and Emily Blunt, is about to open—and had none the start of every publication, a delightful new novel by Torday has followed. The latest is The Legacy of Rathpeel Hall, set like several of his books in his native Northumberland, England, and telling of the secret lives people live in which Torday connected by stories, though his working life has, in fact, been spent in the engineering industry.

"So you get into your late [illegible]," he says, "you begin to realize that everybody else is younger and cleverer than you are, so it's time to move on. I thought to myself, 'I'll just have one last go. If nobody shows any interest, that's it?"

The bizarre idea for his first success came in a business meeting. "I'd been travelling a lot in the Middle East. Also, I was helping to set up a charity to do with the health of the headwaters I like hiking. In one of those meetings, while not listening to what was going on, I got this crossover idea: fishing, doesn't it? Wouldn't be nice to write a book that was really a metaphor for not getting involved in the Middle East."

He began writing it in the form of e-mails, like a modern-day Clarissa or The Women in White. Then he created the character of Dr. Jones to include diaries, memos and interview manuscripts. The proposal he sent off told of a shy government fisheries scientist (McGregor in the film) in a dry marriage who is recruited against his will by a sophisticated lawyer (Blunt) to pitch an idea to a prime-loving Yemeni sheikh keen to cast his rod in a desert wadi.

"Nothing happened. The manuscript had been out there for months and I'd given up the idea of it becoming a success. I put the e-mail string, 'The night possible be publishable. Could I see the rest?' I then had to somehow produce the rest straight, mostly, and at weekends. When it came out a friend of mine said he thought it would do quite well if there were 56 Northumbrian gentlemen who would buy a copy."

Self-effacing demeanor

In fact, the film rights had already been optioned by Kudos, and James Bowsley, who wrote the screenplays of "This Year's Model" and "Shooting Millionaire," took on the script. Torday kept his distance.

"I didn't really want to be involved because I'm only just finding out how to write movies and I don't think I'd add anything at all."

This is how Torday sounds. He has the self-effacing demeanor of someone who perhaps feels they don't quite belong, either in literary or London. He lives with his wife in a converted [illegible] house in a remote Northumbrian valley. He tweed overcoat and the polite county accent you'd expect from a retired [illegible]. He does not the surname. Torday is a village in Transylvania; the author's father was Hungarian.)

The modesty extends to the way he talks about his work. His second novel, "The Irresistible Inheritance of Wilberforce," tells of another male misfit, this time a composer tricked whose alcoholism is caused by a Dutch master conservatory to play him. Torday narrated it backwards.

"It's a device," he suggests. "I think probably, if I was honest, I wasn't that confident in my own ability to write a book without a gimmick. After that I've made the screenplays of "The Irresistible Inheritance"

"UNDER Siege"

"TERN Nesting"

'Birds of Tubbataha' opens at BenCab Museum Oct. 13

PHOTOJOURNALIST MELVIN Calderon and National Artist for the Visual Arts Benedicto "BenCab" Cabrera will open the joint exhibit "The Birds of Tubbataha," on Oct. 13 at the BenCab Museum (Km. 6 Asin Road, Tuklangan, Tuba, Benguet).

Calderon's photographs were part of his trip to documents the rare birds on the reef islets on Tubbataha Reef, Palawan, that he undertook in 2010. On his second trip, BenCab went along. The result is a rare collaboration between photojournalist and visual artist.

"It is noteworthy that BenCab also took photographs of the birds," Calderon said. "He made these photographs on his hands-on guide in rendering his own interpretations of the Reef Isles.

"Together we aim to promote awareness of the need to preserve this bird sanctuary, which in turn helps preserve Tubbataha, one of the Philippines'—and the world's—treasured heritage."

A veteran photojournalist, Calderon has covered the Philippines, Southeast Asia and Asia for international news magazine/newsweeklies Time, Newsweek, Forbes, Sports Illustrated, Paris Match, The Economist, National Geographic Magazine and, Der Spiegel.

His works have been published in books such as "Bayan Ko: Kilos Bayan," "Ilyas ng Awasin," "Bulusta: Babaylan: Orate the Barrados," "Semana Bisaya: Prime Minister," "Arrivals," and "Edsa 2."

Calderon also does photography for local and foreign corporate clients.

He was first managed by JR Pictures, subsequently by Liaison International, then Getty Images.

He is now a freelancer and does photography for local and foreign corporate clients.

BenCab has exhibited widely in the Philippines and in Asia, Europe and the United States.

His art makes use of photographs, especially those of women in trait-of-the century-lifestyles. He has been noted as "arguably the best-selling painter of his generation of Filipino artists."

The BenCab Museum in Baguio City shows indigenous Cordillera arts and crafts, contemporary art, and his private collections.

"POINT of View"; at right, "Red-Footed Boobies"

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Pinoy indie films in NY museum

CHEER FACTOR

FILIPINO fly Filipino director Raya Martin will be featured at the Museum of the Moving Image in New York from Oct. 19 to 21. Among Martin's works that will be screened are "Independencia," "The Island at the End of the World," "A Short Film About the Indio Nacional," "Autohystoria," "The Great Cinema Party," "Now Showing" and "Next Attraction." The museum's website called Martin a "daring, restless filmmaker." Martin and Gym Lumbera will also set up a video installation, which will debut at the museum lobby on Oct. 19. Aquel Kiw-Chuga A.

SANTOS: "Let's run about freedom."

Stars tackle cybercrime law issue

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

IT'S IRONIC that the Internet, which was designed to make our lives simpler, is creating a lot of problems that has led to the enactment of the Cybercrime Prevention Law.

In this day and age, we can't help but be drawn to technology, but we should not allow ourselves to be stifled by some politicians, who are trying to delude us through this controversial law. If they could only hear what we have to say. They should streamline the new law. There's a thin line between prevention and restriction. Something's going grey.

ABOUT OR Writing Rights on Cyber?

***

VILMA SANTOS: It's only right that we take care of our freedom but this comes with a corresponding responsibility. Freedom should never be abused.

MARTIN NIEVERA: For me, it depends on what side you are on. Are you the basher or the basher? Then again, I want to know who will be the master opinion taker. Below me, I am all for friendlier communication with all the social networks. But if I am not hurting anyone I should have the freedom to give my opinion and speak my mind. So when in doubt, delete. Block—or have about just be nice to each other. Agree or?

ABS-MOLBENCE: I'm against it plain and simple. What will happen to freedom of speech? How can we give our objective opinion on issues if we are prevented from doing so? And media will have a hard time letting the public know the real scenario through the Web, more especially the ordinary folk whose only means to be heard is via the Web.

ZOREN LEGASPI: Cybercrime law does not affect me in a negative way. People should understand that laws are passed to protect the

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'Busong' shows Pinoys respect nature

Indie film cited by Nat Geo recounts Palawan folk tales

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE THEME couldn't be more appropriate.

Coming on the heels of the National Geographic report on the country's purported involvement in the illegal ivory trade, Filipino filmmaker Antonio Sobico's "Busong" was honored at the international organization's 6th All Roads Film Festival held in Washington, DC last week.

In the October issue of National Geographic magazine, high officials of the Roman Catholic Church were implicated in the smuggling of ivory, which is used in crafting religious images. Ivory is obtained by killing elephants and a few other endangered animals.

"Busong," which recounts folk tales from Palawan, has been described as a lyrical tribute to the environmental connection to the environmental connection.

"It is through cinema that we discover one people's awe in, digression and we focus on celebrates' religion, which has been corrupted and has given our country a negative image abroad," Sobico told the Inquirer in an e-mail interview. "We are not child abusers and ivory smugglers. We are a people who are one with nature."

He explained that Filipinos value Mother Earth, "So when we respect nature, it responds in kind."

Sobico won the fest's top prize, the Sharon Hills Award ...named after a pioneering female Maori filmmaker from New Zealand.

"I feel deeply honored to win this award because I had the privilege of meeting Sharon seven years ago at the Imagine Native film fest in Canada," Sobico recalled. "She saw my documentary, 'Dead Beats' the first such a strong spiritual presence. Like a loving motherly I was saddened to learn of her passing two years ago."

He dedicated his trophy, which depicts an indigenous icon god-dess, to his ancestors and mother who passed on to him the folk tales of his home province.

The award came as a pleasant surprise, he said. "In the middle of a projection test for my film, I was called to attend the reception for the awards ceremony. I didn't even know there was a competition."

At Fest, he thought he would go home empty-handed. "There the festival director Francine Blythe announced that we got the Haven Mist award," he related. "She explained that the haven is composed both docus and fiction films, that it was the storytellers' award chosen from among the 18 films shown in the fest."

"Busong" was recently screened during the screening in until. The opera theater that hd. Towel was just as "invigorating," Sobico reported.

ALESSANDRA de Rossi in "Busong"

ALESSANDRA Sobico at the fest thread in Washington, DC

Number of gay TV roles in US at its highest ever

NEW YORK—The number of gay and lesbian characters on scripted broadcast network TV is at its highest-ever level in the season ahead, according to the fury is Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. The trend on cable TV is also ramping up.

The 17th annual "Where We Are on TV" report, released on Friday found that 4.4 percent of series appearing regularly on prime-time network drama and comedy roles during the 29 11-13 season will portray lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender characters. That is up from 3.9 percent in 2012.

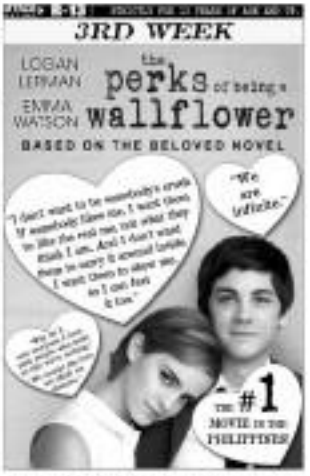
The study reviewed 97 regular TV programs set to air in the evening network, counting a total of 701 series regular characters—71 of them LGBT roles.

ABC has the highest number—10 out of 104, or 9.6 percent. Last year's tracks, Fox, ranks second with six characters out of 138 roles regulars, or 5.1 percent.

CBS was ranked as much improved, with four out of 142, or 2.8 percent, up from 0.7 percent last year. Among CBS' new fall roles is "Partners," a comedy about two friends and business partners, one of whom is gay. The network's lineup represents "an authentic and sensitive effort by CBS to improve its diversity," the study said.

Also cited were HBO, FX, Adult Swim, ABC Family, MTV, Syfy and Starz/Encore. The HBO drama "True Blood" remains cable's most inclusive series, featuring six LGBT characters. AP

DAVID Krumholtz and Michael Urie in "Partners"



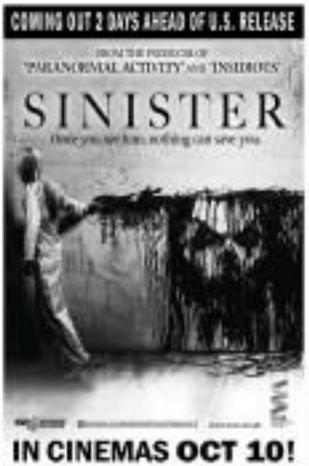
Stars...

A-list page 11

government and the people. If the government uses this how to cover up their corruption or use it to bully bloggers, that's when we should worry. Rules 4, 5, 6 hang loose just expect Let's give it a try. Peace!

MARK GIL: I am not really affected by it because I am not a teen. This all came so suddenly. A resolution without a reason? Quite scary! What's next?

JEO MORELA: It all seems to organize me. It will all boil down to the proper implementation that would be fair to all sectors of society. Anything done protects the welfare of the people is good and anything that strips them off their rights is highly questionable.



Half-sisters 'crazy' about Regine's baby Nate

By Marinel R. Cruz

SINGER-ACTRESS Regine Velasquez and her family's storied week-long stay in Singapore was meant to introduce her son Nate to his half-sisters Leila and Sarah.

"They were very happy to see Nate," Regine told show biz writers during the recent launch of her new show, "Songs Divas," at the GMA 7 studios in Quezon City. "Parang ang sa relang nila (the three of them were crazy)."

She added, "They really had time to bond. Each morning, the girls took care of Nate so I could sleep."

Leila and Sarah are daughters of her husband, singer-songwriter Ogie Alcasid, with his ex-wife, comedian beauty queen Michelle Van Etzenen. The trio was also the girls' first time in Crow City.

Regine continued, "What's funny about Nate was that regardless of the size the doctored off it. He would laugh aloud (in his sleep). He would roll and mumble, which only made [us] more curious about him."

BABY NATE AND HALF-SISTERS Leila and Sarah

Godmother Michelle

Regine likewise said that Michelle, also one of Nate's godparents, bought a lot of baby clothes and toys for the child.

"I think Nate is in love with Michelle," Regine said. "He was scared of her in the beginning, but after a while, we would always catch him staring at Michelle's face. I guess it's because it's his first time to see blonde hair."

In an earlier interview, Ogie said he was determined to make his children develop a close relationship, in spite of the distance between their homes. Leila and Sarah stay in Australia with Michelle and her new husband, Mark Herrera.

"It was my children growing up and how really close is, para lima. Um... actually excited to see them together," Ogie said.

Regine, who had long wanted to have a baby, said she enjoyed sharing pictures of baby Nate, especially on Instagram. Somebody had told her, she added, that it was good to share one's experiences with other people "because they learn things."

"For example, I got a lot of thank you's especially from moms, nato 'who follow me' sa social," Regine noted. "Sa mga issue of their skin, like pag-ano ng baby nila. Kinakausap ko sila. I make sure of their skin, like pag-ano ng baby nila. Kinakausap ko sila. I make sure to answer some of their questions."

For her show, "Songs Divas," which premiered last Saturday, Regine displays her cooking skills alongside three of other divas, who likewise shared with her tips on how to be an effective wife to their loved ones to Nate.

Mommy talk

Unlike Chef Boy Logue's show ("Kusina Master"), which is instructional, this program isn't just about cooking," Regine said.

She said that aside from giving cooking tips, she and her guests would likewise be talking about "mommy things."

She cited an example: "In some of the episodes, my guests will help me plan Nate's birthday party. While I'm an expert in performing onstage, I'm clueless when it comes to these things," Kuya will have Lou Veloso.

Regine said she once planned on cooking in a culinary school, but it didn't push through because of her hectic schedule. Instead, she watched different cooking channels.

REGINE Velasquez-Alcasid "Queen of Divas"

REGINE and Ogie Alcasid bonding with Michelle Van Etzenen, the kids and Baby Nate's nanny

"I was amazed to learn that a lot of people loved to cook, including (broadcast journalist) Jessica Soho, who will be one of my guests on the show," she said. "Jessica regards cooking as a way to de-stress. That's also how I feel. I don't think of it as a chore."

"I like cooking when I'm stressed," Regine said. "All the negative feelings disappear when I'm in the kitchen. Good idea to have me host I'm doing."

She doesn't have to cook for the family every day because they have a cook. So, she cooks depending on her mood.

"I don't have a favorite dish to prepare," she said. "When I do a special occasion or to see what leftovers we have and make something out of them. Sometimes, I make soup—which, I realized only recently, is very hard to do. It takes so much time and effort just to complete the taste."

Regine said she cooks pasta most of the time because, she adds, it can be combined with food.

Healthy dishes

For now, Regine cooks mostly healthy dishes. She explained, "Since he cholesterol level went up, he only eats grilled fish and chicken breast. Sometimes just soup, but with lots of oil."

Now that Nate can eat solid food, Regine often gives him boiled and mashed vegetables, scrambled chicken and fish because "he needs a lot of protein to grow."

The singer-actress said she will also host tips compiled about her cooking. "We would tell me what I should put in a dish to improve its taste, but, the doesn't happen often. Most of the time, he'd say 'sweet Songs' (Laughs) 'Salamat.' When he likes something, he would make me cook it again for special gatherings at home. That's why I have to remember mealsa him' numbers so long it improves most of the time."

"Songs Divas," directed by Tess Mauricio II, also features Kate and Regine's pet dog Georgie in "virtual animation." Her brothers-in-law Raul Mitra is musical director.

Regine is also seen on the Sunday variety program "Party Pilipinas" and the magazine talk show "Sen TV" both on GMA 7.

E-mail marinel@inquirer.com.ph.

New dates, venues for Jonas Brothers; Elton John to hold first Philippine show

THE JONAS Brothers concert, originally set on Oct. 19 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum, will become a one-day event in new venues: Oct. 19 at the Mall of Asia Arena and Oct. 20 at the Filinvest Corporate...

NOMOI Zongo

PHILIPPA Gonzalez

JONAS Brothers

...ferent singer-actress Anne Marie Perez de Tagle as front act. Anna, a granddaughter of legendary singer Kim Fly, actress and recording artist Selena Li Reyes, is being managed by Kevin Jonas Sr. Call 479-2222.

Pachelle Concepcion

Elton John at Big Dome

Pop-superstar Elton John performs on Dec. 8 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

In his illustrious five-decade career, John has sold more than 250 million records worldwide.

Call 911-5555 or visit ticketnet.com.ph.

Hennessy Artistry Halo

The Hennessy Artistry Halo concert on Oct. 13 will be headlined by DJ Armando Dizon, Dj Dhonna Doria, Pennibelle Pari, Champ and Robin Stevens. Visit www.hennessyphotoartmanila.com.

Jeff Lorber Fusion

The Jeff Lorber Fusion performs on Oct. 14, 6 p.m., at the Ballroom of Manhattan Oriental hotel, Makati.

Slots in a Jewish family in Philadelphia, Lorber started playing the piano at age four, performed in Bar Mitzvahs at a teen, and attended the Berklee College of Music, where he developed his love for jazz.

The band's lineup for the Manila concert includes Lorber, bassist Nate Phillips, saxophonist Eric Marienthal and drummer Sonny Emory.

The concert will also feature Filipino guitarist Jeanne Rico and singer Rizl Aparicio. Tickets are come with one free round of cocktail food and drinks. Call 788.8888 or text 0922-8892100.

Mascalzone at Zirkoh

The Mascalzone will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a concert by Bobbed "Terkoh" on Oct. 11-20 p.m., at Zirkoh on Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City.

The song-and-dance group is composed of original members Xavier Nikolai, Lenard Linares and Robert Rubid, with new members Jess Oan Ong, Mico Cendaña and Orlando Jed who joined in January 2012.

Call 372-4665 or text 0905-4042009.

'Rent at Sayan'

Young scholars of Dance 136 for ballroom dancing will perform on Nov. 16 at the Music Museum.

The scholars—Angelico Ong, Ana Pamela Jessica Morales, Liz Katherine Ann Gaerlan, Liz Dominik Joyce N. Peel, Ui Rinabeth Goyon, 7; Nowell Joseph R. Del Rosario, 9; Juan Paulo Mangaoang and Israel Jess Alcantara, 11; Adrian Prince Pulig, 13; Mark Jessie Garon, 18, actress Fernando and Crystal Daniel R. del Rosario, 19—were trained dance the singers of Emily Silva, Dance Bench 115 owner.

Guest artists include Pilita Corrales and Nancy Zaldua, and tenors Miguel Cuenco, Jesse Rodriguez, David Eas Gruss, Clarence Nagasa and Jonathan de Ayala.

Call 0917.848.3952.

JEFF Lorber

Actress happy to be in series that helps empower women

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS Bela Padilla said the best thing about landing the lead role in "Magdalena," the latest GMA 7 afternoon drama series, was that she could help empower women.

Bela is a member of Called to Recover, an organization that helps women and children victims of human trafficking. "The group conducts rescue operations," she explained. "Sadly, it's not advisable for celebrities to participate in the operations. That's why I was so excited when I learned I was finally doing a TV series. What better way to promote the group than this? Magdalena, who is forced to work as an escort girl, is a victim of human trafficking, too."

The actress added: "I love all the roles I play on TV, but some of them have themes that are so unrealistic, they don't happen in real life. On the other hand, 'Magdalena' is shockingly realistic. Even I learn so much from it. I'm glad I can help empower women, open their eyes."

Complex character

Based on the Filipino Komiks series "Kahulugan Ko Ang Langit," the series is about a provincial lass, Magdalena (Bela), whose marriage to Baron (Ryan Eigenmann), a rich businessman from Manila, is arranged by her mother Lolita (Irma Adlawan). But instead of marrying bet, Baron almost Magdalena and forces her to work as an escort girl.

"No woman should be sold, bought, or taken home if she doesn't want to," Bela stressed.

"This character is complex. She's a misunderstood," Bela added. "I'm the first sarah of the show, all of my scenes required crying. Magdalena is so suave. I'm like her in real life...too trusting. I think I'd be more effective playing the wrongful Magdalena because I'd feel more detached."

Aside from much skin she would have in the series, Bela said: "We're still bound by the standards of television. I know my character (Gina Alajar) will take good care of me. She briefed my mother about what I would be doing."

"Magdalena" premieres on GMA 7's "Afternoon Prime" tomorrow today.

E-mail mrcruz@inquirer.com.ph

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 Ted
9:00am • 11:20am • 1:50pm • 4:25pm • 6:55pm • 9:35pm
12:15hrs

2 Taken
9:00am • 11:10am • 1:20pm • 3:30pm • 5:40pm • 7:50pm • 10:00pm • 12:10am

3 Taken 2 2D
9:20am • 11:40am • 2:00pm • 4:20pm • 6:40pm • 9:00pm • 11:20pm

4 Hotel Transylvania
9:10am • 11:10am • 1:40pm • 3:40pm • 5:50pm • 7:55pm • 10:00pm • 12:00mn

RESORTWORLD CINEMAS

1 Hotel Transylvania
3:20pm • 5:30pm • 8:15pm • 10:40pm

2 Taken 2 2D
2:00pm • 5:00pm • 7:30pm • 10:30pm

3 Taken 2
1:35pm • 4:05pm • 6:35pm • 9:05pm

4 The Mistress
12:30pm • 3:25pm • Ted 6:45pm • 8:15pm • 10:40pm

5 Taken 2
12:40pm • 3:10pm • 5:00pm • 8:10pm • 10:40pm

6 The Perks of being a Wallflower 2D
2:10pm • 4:20pm • 6:40pm • Taken 2 10:00pm

7 Taken 2
2:20pm • 4:50pm • 7:35pm • 10:00pm

GLORIETTA CINEMAS

1 Of All the Things
10:30am • 12:30pm • 2:40pm • The Mistress 6:00pm • 7:30pm • 10:00pm

2 Taken 2 2D
10:00am • 12:10pm • 2:10pm • 4:10pm • 6:10pm • 8:10pm • 10:10pm

3 Hotel Transylvania 2D
12:00am • 12:00pm • 2:00pm • 4:00pm • 6:00pm • 8:00pm • Ted 2D 6:00pm • 10:00pm

4 Taken 2
10:30am • 12:40pm • 2:50pm • 5:10pm • 7:30pm • 10:00pm

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MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (3D)
2: TAKEN 2 (2D)
3: RED
4: OF ALL THE THINGS
5: PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER
6: TAKEN 2
7: THE MISTRESS

FESTIVAL 5
1: TED
2: TAKEN 2
3: SKYFALL

GREENBELT 3
1: TAKEN 2
2: PELICULA
3: TED
4: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (3D)
5: PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: TAKEN 2
2: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (2D)
3: GIVE UP TOMORROW
4: PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER
5: THE MISTRESS

ALABANG CENTER CINEMA
1: TAKEN 2
2: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA
3: TED (3D)
4: THE MISTRESS

MARQUEE
1: TAKEN 2
2: TED (2D)
3: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA
4: OF ALL THE THINGS

MARKET! MARKET!
1: TAKEN 2
2: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION
3: OF ALL THE THINGS
4: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (2D)
5: TED
6: THE MISTRESS
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: TED (2D)
2: PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER
3: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (2D)
4: GIVE UP TOMORROW
5: OF ALL THE THINGS/TAKEN 2
6: THE MISTRESS
7: TAKEN 2

ABREEZA
1: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (2D)
2: TED (2D)
3: TAKEN 2
4: THE MISTRESS

HARBOR POINT
1: THE MISTRESS
2: TAKEN 2
3: TED
4: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA

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Activity Center
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Activity Center
AYALA NORTH EXCHANGE
Activity Center
TRINOMA
Activity Center
MARQUEE
Activity Center
ABREEZA
Activity Center

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Dingdong on 'Tiktik': Historic, socially relevant

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTOR Dingdong Dantes' film outfit Agostodos Pictures has partnered with GMA Films and Reality Entertainment in bankrolling a fantasy-adventure flick at the whopping cost of P60 million.

Dantes described Erik Matti's "Tiktik: The Journey Chronicles"—which he unproduced and stars in—as "worthwhile and entertaining Filipinos can all be proud of."

He said he joined this newcomer because he wanted to "make a difference" in the movie industry by making films that have "social relevance."

"Tiktik," which also features Lovi Poe, Ai-Ai delas Alas, Jinkee dela Paz-Pacquiao and Heart Evangelista, will be screened in local theaters on Nov. 17.

Dantes said the aim was to "make viewers come out of the movie houses feeling proud of Filipino culture. We want them to see that, given enough resources and time, our products can be at par with those of other countries."

Here are excerpts from our interview with Dantes.

What made you decide on co-producing 'Tiktik'?

My involvement began five years ago. Direk Erik Borlaza, head of Reality Entertainment) and I co-won a screenwriting contest in Malaysia. We would always travel there and talk about how much we care for the movie industry and how we want to contribute to its improvement. With what he does in Breakbulk (a post-production outfit) and MacDonald (a computer graphics company), I knew that Direk wanted to set the mark higher for digital technology (in Philippine movies).

Direk told me that he and Direk Erik had a project in mind. I read the script and liked it. I agreed to collaborate, but I didn't want to be just one of the actors. I believed in the project, so much that I wanted to be part of its creation.

How involved were you as a producer?

I participated in everything from the casting to the final editing. On Oct. 2, I even accompanied Erik to the MTRCB (Movie and Television Review and Classification Board) office to have the film rated. What's good about working with him and Direk Erik is that we're always on the same page. Never did our ideas clash. This made it easy for us. Through this project, I realized how difficult the work of a producer was. I appreciate their hard work now, and how they collaborate with their directors and actors to create something really artistic.

What's the best thing about being an actor? A director?

Acting is my outlet. This enables me to create different personas, to be a different person completely. I find fulfillment in being able to do this effectively. As a director, you call the shots. It's you who's talking to the viewers. It's your vision that they hear and your vision that they see. You get rewarded if you're able to reach out to the audience through your film.

Don't you think wearing too many hats will make you lose your focus?

Not really. It just so happened that I got to wear two at the same time for this one. I don't want to be known as one that I'm also (an) excellent (at) producing. I'm also (an) excellent (at) producing. That also goes for being both a producer and an actor in one film—I don't think the setup will work all the time. I've just been lucky that for this project, I did. I'm open to producing more films. Some that would not require me to act. Everything is possible. I may have many hats, but I make sure to wear only one with full force at a time.

Would you still be willing to play somewhere at offbeat roles in the future?

I'm open to doing more offbeat roles, but maybe not everytime, in the future. I like characters who are complex. I feel that I'm effective when characters are also complex. It's what my character is going through and are able to learn from the experience.

In your previous interviews, you described "Tiktik" as "historic." Why so?

This is the first local movie to make use of the green-screen technology to such an extent. The entire film's backdrop is computer-generated. Everything is done digitally by Filipino artists. They're very meticulous. They made sure every little detail is right. Even the sounds of the creatures in the film are unique. They're not just recycled sounds from other movies. They made sure they have a realistic feel of a battle or roars for beasts/aswang.

What do you expect out of making this film?

Most Filipinos are tired of foreign movies of this genre. We hope that, after this, we can make more movies so that it's possible to produce one locally, and in fact, that it can be better. We can all relate to it, from its humor and visuals, to the fact that the story is part of Philippine folklore.

The film cost P60 million to produce. Do you expect to recoup your investment?

Every positive comment I read on YouTube or hear from people I meet no worth more than the millions we spent for this project. More than the monetary investment, it's our conscience (or the industry's) that matters. We want viewers to contribute something that will showcase Pinoy talent.

E-mail marinel@inquirer.com.ph

MYTHIX band Kuerx at Mo& Kruno: It rocers to good, old, melodic, piano-driven music

PHOTO BY RUDY SANTOS

More nostalgic than exciting

By Allan Pabayargo
Contributor

CONTRARY to what the title suggests, "Strangeland," this alternative pop-rock band Keane's fourth studio album, feels more like a return to their good old melodic, piano-driven brand, after it dabbled in 1980s synth-pop/ electronica on its third record "Perfect Symmetry."

Thus, the band's newest Manila stop for its "Strangeland" world tour was more nostalgic than exciting. The fervor, though fresh off the studio, sounded unenthusiastic by default.

Keane—Tom Chaplin (vocals), Tim Rice-Oxley (piano), Jesse Quinn Frost (guitar) and Richard Hughes (drums)—opened the show by enlisting the Mall of Asia Arena with the fanciful "Sun Ain't Shining."

The 20 song set was naturally heavy on the band's newest numbers, such as "Clap Your Hands Say Yeah," "Silenced by the Night," "On the Road," "Disconnected," "The Starting Line" and the earlier single "Sovereign Light Cafe."

While Chaplin possesses the authentic drive and stridor of whimsy that are unmistakably Keane, it was the choruses from the first two albums, "Hopes and Fears" and "Under the Iron Sea," that evoked the crowd's enthusiasm.

Madness

The atmosphere was initially tepid, since quite a few people seemed to be more concerned about snapping photos and recording the show. But when Rice-Oxley unleashed the distinctive, stomping piano riff to the attack hit "Everybody's Changing," everybody's there was handsome. The infectious blend of piano and synthesizer sounds in the latter energized the venue, elicited raucous cheers and jolted fans off their seats. As Chaplin belted out the chorus, the crowd sang along in unbridled gusto: "Everybody's changing and I don't feel the same!"

Though his timbre was a bit subdued and his showmanship burdened on shows, Chaplin was nonetheless a vigorous performer. His unbridling voice was as strong and vibrant as it was resonant. His earnest and shadowy charm served him well, especially with the ladies.

"What I love about being here is that everyone has such an incredibly positive attitude about life," he told the adoring crowd.

Serene vocals

Acoustic guitar slung across his shoulder, Chaplin did a bare bones solo of "Your Eyes Open." Then, a chorus of melancholy sung-a-longs from the crowd as the band performed the eerie, atmospheric "Atlantic." The song started with a lengthy instrumental that moved languidly toward a climax that saw Chaplin lending serene vocals to words that evoke fear of being alone.

Some own touch of its cantabrian-al cocoon in its crisp and driving pop-rock tones, but it's the band's quieter and more poignant side that came a cappella to some into a fun. "Try Again," "We Might As Well Be Strangers" and "Bedshaped" packed emotional wallop, but strangely left one feeling hopeful and uplifted. Another such song was "A Bad Dream," series piece lulled of the band's sophomore album.

In what turned out to be one of the concert's highlights, Chaplin harmonized away on the keyboards as Rice-Oxley on the drumstick instrumental interlude leading to the song's final chorus.

The audience was marked with blasts of mild major heats on "This Is the Last Time," "Bend and Break," and the showy Christmas stand-in "Snowed Under."

To offset the stellarapic anthems and ballads, the band played a few mid-tempo, relatively head-bobbing tunes such as "Is It Any Wonder?" and "Spiralling."

Straightforward

It was a fairly straightforward concert overall, with no surprise numbers or favorites. Chaplin indelicately swung from one hit to another with aplomb. Between songs, Rice-Oxley could be heard endearing with random notes and chords.

Rising options rock band, Keane is regularly compared to its contemporary Coldplay. The resemblance, however, starts and ends there.

Keane, at least on its first two albums, went for more soaring choruses, like those on "Somewhere Only We Know"—unquestionably the concert's most anticipated and applauded number. It was one of the few songs that had everyone singing from the very first word.

Before capping the night off with the addictive and radio-friendly "Crystal Ball," Chaplin told the fans that he had an incredible experience playing in Manila. "We'd love to come back," he said.

Judging by the roars and clamors for more, it was clear the feeling was mutual.

Variety is the spice for panel TV shows

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IT ALL began with "The View," the all-female talk panel show that got endlessly bandied about like Barbara Walters and Whoopi Goldberg together, and invited them to trade opinions or barbs on a wide range of topics.

The idea was to find spice in three wildly divergent views—as well as hopefully clarifying light.

It's a bit like putting a viper, a movie censor, an opposite and a major legend or in the same cage and waiting to find out which contentious creature will be the first one to bite, or to lie down and play dead.

Well, "The View" is still on the air, although its Susan Lucci-level deadbeat and chutzpah through the years, the Barbara Walters of Journalism, has been, it's doing so well that it's been shamelessly copied or more subtly tweaked by other properties on the telly, like "The Talk."

Most of the time, the borrowing has been done not for a full show but only for a portion of it, like the "Fashionistas" mini-hot fest and debate on "Eat Bulaga," where the opinionation and reaction are of decidedly mixed genders.

In other reincarnations, the format has been done as an all-male panel on a show for women—the idea being that women want to know what men think on a wide variety of topics.

On the minus side, this "instant dispersion of opinions" format can make its panelists come off as one glib, vociferous, ill-informed bunch of loudmouths. Or, they somehow end up shouting themselves to the floor.

It also defeats viewers into thinking that reading a quick value judgment based only on sketchy and shallow bits of information is the smart way to go. Also!

Worse, it tempts viewers to jump on the trendy bandwagon and vote savvy and with it contraindications and opinions themselves—with disastrous consequences!

The much better way would be for panelists on TV to take more time discussing an issue before coming up with their take on it.

So, no more "smorgasbord" than fresh, please. Rather, reinvestigate an every one event or personality, and reserve other "hot" topics for succeeding days.

This may not course off as "intellectually" versatile as we'd like it, apparently, but it will show viewers that "opinionating" is a tough process that has a huge responsibility attached to it.

Come to think of it, panels on TV are a new expression of the "instant" and "democratic" culture that so many pundits favor and worship these days. If we have instant coffee, quickie tea, and "overnight" success, why not instant opinions, too?

Because reality sinks. Rather open, we're listening to and taking seriously a handful of opinions that we spend no understanding, nor just fill our heads and ears with tastily tawdry and quotable pronouncements, "mother-head" statements repeated ad nauseam and time-sprit words for words.

It also isn't helpful for a panelist to declare that he's for or against something or someone just because "this is me, that's just what I feel in my heart, or gut."

Also, real thinking, engineering and opinionating should involve the brain most of all, not so much the other organs in the human anatomy. Going, going, gone?

DIVERGENT OPINIONS "The View" hosts (from left) Whoopi Goldberg, Barbara Walters, Joy Behar and Elisabeth Hasselbeck

Can a higher sin tax keep students from smoking? G3

LEARNING

Ellyn Chole Bawad-Fornares

BENCH-IE SERIAL READING

Earth Healers
Chapter 5:
The Awakened
Giant/ G4

Art-filled World Teachers' Day for Metro teachers

By Nina Calleja

ABOUND 300 teachers from Metro Manila jointly artfully got an artistic World Teachers' Day treat.

At the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) in Pasay City, the teachers experienced arts in different forms under expert guidance.

They were asked to choose which art form they were interested in—theater, film, music and dance—and got a one-and-a-half-hour lecture-demonstration on their chosen field.

"Since the CCP is focusing on arts appreciation, we thought, 'Why not let our teachers experience arts?'" said Joselina Guillen, chief of the audience development division of the CCP's Arts Education Department, organizer of the event.

The teachers, who came from different schools in Metro Manila, expressed elsewhere could spend half a day at the CCP.

MAY KULLED (G)

Join Sun Cellular and BlackBerry's Fun in the Sun video contest and win an all-expense paid international trip with your friends

Love your Sun-powered BlackBerry® to the fullest? Make it official in a video, upload it on www.sunbasicbuy.com.ph, and if your video gets picked, you and your friends might just be on the next flight to Singapore, Hong Kong or Thailand!

As a pre-Christmas treat, Sun Cellular has partnered with BlackBerry to launch a make-your-own-video contest dubbed "Fun in the Sun" encouraging the public to come up with the most original, fun and creative music video sharing what they like about their Sun-powered BlackBerry smartphones and why they have more fun under the Sun. The three best videos will be awarded all-expense paid trips for four. Grand prize is a Singapore trip with Universal Studios tour. Second prize is a Hong Kong trip with Disneyland tour, 3rd prize is a Bangkok, Thailand trip.

The contest is in line with Sun Cellular and BlackBerry's recently released "We Can Do Anything" music video featuring young band Never the Strangers and the network's endorser Maja Salvador. The music video is a virtual nod to the popularity of Sun BlackBerry postpaid plans in the country that combine affordability and functionality in one complete package.

Some of the popular plans offered are Sun BlackBerry Plan 999 with free BlackBerry® Curve™ 9320 or BlackBerry® Curve™ 9380 along with a string of unlimited services - Sun calls and texts, social networking, push e-mail, BBM, instant messaging, BlackBerry browsing and mobile internet and Sun BlackBerry Social Plan 600 which includes a free BlackBerry® Curve™ 9220 perfect for unlimited Sun calls and texts, unlimited BBM™ (BlackBerry® Messenger), unlimited Facebook, unlimited Twitter and unlimited BlackBerry browsing.

To join Sun Cellular and BlackBerry's Fun in the Sun video contest, simply take out your video cams and create a spin-off of the official music video making sure to positively incorporate all Sun BlackBerry features such as unlimited Sun calls and texts, BBM, mobile internet and social networking. For more information, visit www.sunblackberry.com.ph. Meanwhile, Sun BlackBerry video booths are also set up in selected areas where participants can make do on-the-spot video entry.

Entries will be judged based on the following criteria: 10% creative of Likes and Shares on www.sunblackberry.com.ph; 40% adherence to the Sun and BlackBerry mandatories and 50% creativity.

Last day of submissions of video entries is on November 30, 2012 at 11:59 PM. Winners will be announced on December 10, 2012.

So gather your friends, take out your video cameras and get your passports ready because you might just be on the next flight to Singapore, Hong Kong or Thailand!

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Playgrounds for the MIND

Cup Color Chapin Medina

Fatima strengthens paperless training in Nursing Informatics

DEB LADY of Fatima University's College of Nursing is bringing its Nursing Informatics to new horizons with "Paperless Training Program" by providing additional laboratory equipment and software for the paperless nursing courses at its Nursing Virtual Laboratory.

Since its training inception in June 2009, the college's curriculum development and information delivery in the field of health informatics is constantly updating. This is in response to the challenges posed by the CHEd Memorandum Order # 14 s2009 introducing the Nursing Informatics course in the new BSN curriculum.

"We need to respond to the challenges of modern healthcare," said Michael Joseph Stiles, Nursing Informatics coordinator. He also emphasized the need to provide electronic health record (EHR) training for students. "Right now, we are maximizing the benefits of PowerUser Open Source Software (YUSE) to expose our students to electronic health records," he added.

Stiles also shared that the college has produced several Nursing researches in the field of Nursing Informatics, believing that an evidence-based college practice is the best approach to ensure program effectiveness.

The college's researches on computerized and electronic medical records (EMR) were presented in international and local conferences, serving as channels for sharing the researches of the college in the field. The department also said that many developments shall be seen in the succeeding semesters in health informatics since they are now linking with public and private institutions to give the best possible training and implementation for their students.

The College of Nursing is one of the few nursing institutions in the country accredited with Centers of Excellence status by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

UST hosts 2nd PH conference on CSR research

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas (UST) hosted the 2nd Philippine Conference on Research in Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility last Sept. 3 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex auditorium.

The conference-workshop, whose theme was "Doing Good, Yet Not Good Enough," was a gathering of corporations and NGOs. The organizers' objective is for the corporate sustainability and responsibility projects to be based on well-researched studies, which have implementation to include research and evaluation.

Plenary speaker Thomas Thomas, executive director of Singapore Compact for Social Responsibility, and Ramon del Rosario Jr., CEO of ARMOR Holdings Inc., delved on "CSR and CSR Research in Asia." Other speakers were Pacita Juan, president of the Women's Business Council and chair of the Philippine Coffee Board; and Dr. Alvin Ang, former director of the UST Research cluster for Cultural, Educational and Social Issues.

The conference is a project of the UST Graduate School, UST Research Center for Culture, Education and Social Issues, Benito & Carolina Yap Foundation and SAGT College System Pampanga.

BRIEFS

Bautista is JRU Law School dean

BOT Sr. the appointment of Ambassador Liberti Bautista as the new dean, Jose Rizal University Law School effective October 16. Bautista is a top-notch institution in the country. He graduated from JRU in 1987 to prepare men and women for responsible leadership in the development of the law and the administration of justice in the country. He also graduated cum laude from Ateneo, where also did his graduate studies. He has contributed much to the field of law and has made significant contributions to different areas of society. The law school has continued to expand its roster of professors and lecturers who not only boasts of years of experience in teaching but are expert practitioners in the field. Part of this expansion is the addition of prestigious lawyers in the country. Justice Cesar Jr. Sandoval, Court of Appeals Justice Rosmari Carandang, Court of Appeals Justice Samuel Gaerlan, Judge Bienvenido S. Tirona, Judge Bienvenido Ortiz, Judge Monalisa Ignacio, Judge Josephine Veronica Jimenez, Judge Maximo Salvang, Judge Isidoro Medina, and Prosecutors Aded Mabasa. The JRU Law School has always been considered as one of the better performing law schools in the country. This has been made possible by the recent law graduates' outstanding performance in the bar examinations. Atty. Manuel B. Quiambao, dean Eduardo Abella, lawyer Tarsicio L. Cruz, lawyer Rodrigo Lambino and lawyer Cirse Ramos.

PCCLI members visit Manila Tytana

I Did I members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan (PCCLI) visited Manila Tytana Colleges (MTC) Sept. 21 to explore collaboration in enabling students in healthcare, pre-nursing and nursing, for work in Japan. Board of Trustee Kadakuma led the PCCLI team in discussion with Mr. E. Alli Dayo on providing nursing and healthcare education for 30 years. In its Nursing students have Manila Doctors Hospital (MDH) as their base hospital for training. Team Leader Sumida of MTC Manila Doctors College of Nursing and Dr. Edgar S. Cu Unjieng, M.D., of MDH chaired with the PCCLI team the core competencies developed among nursing graduates at MTC and MDH. Prof. Edna Bay of Ateneo de Manila University, Dr. Rogen Macasieb on overview of MDH's hospital facilities.

1,196 pass PMA entrance exams

A TOTAL of 1,196 students passed this year's Philippine Military Academy Entrance Examination (PMAEE) conducted Aug. 26 at 37 examination centers throughout the country. Out of the total passers, 750 are males and 404 are females attending public and private schools. The successful examinees will be notified by the PMA Office of Cadet Admissions and will be given instructions as to the conduct of the Complete Physical Examination. The second phase in the entrance examinations, which will determine those to pass to be appointed as members of PMA Class 2017.

NDGM launches 50th year

NOTRE Dame of Dadiangas launched its year-round Golden Anniversary during the celebration of the 49th Foundation last Sept. 8-9. On the first day, the school gymnasium was packed with excited elementary pupils who displayed the colorful of God's creation through colors and dances. The Alumni Day celebration is on Oct. 20. The Jubilee Year theme is "NDGM Mind: Celebrating Faithfulness and Commitment." For updates of events, visit www.ndgm.edu.ph.

Anglican excel in science club competitions

ANGLICAN College Student Elementary contributed to the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs (PSYSC) Science Olympiad held Sept. 8 made it to second place in the NCR division. Bringing honors to their alma mater are Ivan Samuel Bolejon (Yr. 6), Pearlsheen Umandal (Yr. 5 and Juan Alfonso Paz (Yr. 3). On the other hand, in the National Science Clubs Summit-Engineering Challenge held at Bilar, Laguna and participated in by Region 3, 4a, 4b, NCR women clubs, Dos Gang Nam (Yr. 6) and Mikaih Santiago (Yr. 6) made the distance with their Servomex Wind Mill making it 2nd place. Yr. 6 students Ivan Samuel (Yr. 6) and Francesca Zagala (Yr. 5) were the lone two to cross up and were in the Shoe Rocket to Paradise held at SM Mall of Asia.

HONOR ROLL

UE director chosen outstanding world researcher

DR. OLIVIA D. De Castro-Cosio, University of the East (UE) director for Research Coordination, was conferred the Outstanding World Researcher for 2012 award by the International Association of Multidisciplinary Research (IAMURE) at the IAMURE World Research Conference last Aug. 23 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati. Cosio-Tiby Cosio was recognized for her scientific research contribution to research and the dissemination of research responsibility as a former president of the National Research Council of the Philippines, as well as for her impressive professional expertise. Cosio has been the director of the UE Office of Research Coordination (ORC) since June 2006. Cosio graduated from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Arts, major in Political Science, cum laude, in 1961. She then earned her Master of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Hawaii in 1965, with some graduate courses taken up at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. In 1989, she obtained her Doctor of Philosophy degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Filipino IT professional triumphs int'l Nokia contest

KENJI J. Acosta, an MIS certified database associate, a Java certified professional, and a mid-level in MS IT with specialization in Mobile and Internet Technologies of the Asia Pacific College, was declared grand winner of the Nokia Youth Competition 2012. Sponsored by Nokia Corp., the international Web-hosted writing contest carried both Java and Web apps to celebrate the Series 40's 6th touch as the newest platform of the Nokia device device range. Acosta's entry dubbed Nokia Eco was the culmination of his 3-month-long programming efforts using the platform's exclusive Programming Interfaces (APIs). Bringing home a Nokia Asha 311 and Nokia Asha 303, along with accommodation, plane tickets, and entry to a Nokia event in the region.

FEATI student takes sweet spot at Geodetic board exam

FEATI University graduate Mike Mario C. Sevy (Geodetic Engineering magna cum laude for 2011) placed third in the 2012 Geodetic Engineering Board Licensure Exam held Sept. 4 and 5 with a score of 89.65 percent. There were 2,014 examinees who took only 1,173 passed with 58.24% posting an overall performance of 47.22 percent (this is via the national passing average of 50.24 percent).

Letran sweeps CMMA student awards

COLEGIO De San Juan de Letran's Institute of Communication (Comm) students under the College of Arts and Sciences won four awards and four nominations at the 24th Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) held Aug. 24 at the Star Theater in Pasay City. The "Ate Mary" a Short Film Directed by Comm Student Pauline Paterno, Jovelin Carlo Perez, Jenalia Divine Caparas, Angeline Bago, Sammi Ann de Jesus, Dana Gaidoni, James Christian Elevados, Crystal Joy Estrella, Ishida Sheen Labrador, Ramonel Tamayo, Alyssa Jireh Mendoza, and Jose Jaime Gatling, won the Best Student Short Film, sweeping all subcategories small by 1 dinner for [illegible] CMMA. Ishida Estrella won the Best Actress, Barbara Perez Actress for the short film "BOK." The duo of Monik Cuartel Lambayan and Ramon Marquez won the Best Public Service Radio Announcer for their radio ad, "Tatoo." Topic used Mr. Ng Hoon Kit Mother's Love," a TV production directed by Mark Vere Bautista, won for Best TV Production. "Mitos" of John Kimberly Morales won the Best Student Public Service TV Ad. Ronan Kristian Escobedo received a special citation for his print ad, "Mr. Mamon Jaya." Mitos, John Kimberly Morales received citation for his radio ad, "Lolo / Nanay." Comm "Convoy" and "Last Mile Journey" both received special citations.

USC is grand champion in Square Off-CVC debates

AT 6:3 squaring off 16 top law schools in the country in 11 episodes aired in 14 weeks, Square Off-CVC Law Debates premiered today. Only a University of San Carlos Law Debating Team as the grand champion hurdling all preliminaries, Square 3, 5 at the debate, two teams took on the Supreme Court by distinguishing Debating Champion Ateneo de San Miguel Corp. on the proposition, "Lahat Ng Nakakuha" Test. The Supreme Court Debating Champion Ateneo de Manila University team composed of Michael Kristopher Dimaano, Cesario Macabasco and Kristel Tan, taking on the negative side won the title team composed of sophomore law students Dominic Sanz, Ateneo Press and Mark Dylan Lingayen. The Supreme Court judges were Associate Justice (SC) Law the ateneo, with Ateneo Faculty of Law professor the Chief Speaker Ateneo de Manila University Law "OK" The CSCLAW Debaters is a worthy notion under television debate program broadcast on the ABS-CBN News Channel, and co-sponsored by Law firm Villaraza Cruz Marcelo & Angangco (VCMA).

CAMPUS SPORTS

Double beach volley champ crowns for UPHSD

THE UNIVERSITY of Perpetual Help System Dalta (UPHSD) Lady Altas captured the fourth straight beach volley ball crown during the 89th National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Season 8 Interport Championship held in Cebu's Sapu-Sapu Mactan Island resort. The Lady Altas City bested lady nemesis reigning champion San Sebastian College-Recoletos (SSCR) Lady Stags in one game finals (21-13, 21-16). The Cavitenia dynamic duo Apol Jhon Sumin and Nenita Jane Bay dominated the match in one session. Manila and Iloilo. SHM sophomore standout Sherrine Jane Gallon season MVP while member Miguel Salvat was Coach of the Year. In the men's side, nation al team member Jessie Lopez Jr. single dominated Jeff Bacaltos of Lyceum of the Philippines University in three straight sets Lemuel Magbanua (no. 21, 13), (20-20), between spikes Jay Mar Corpuz was named co-season MVP while Baguio native Jeff Bacaltos was Coach of the year. Perpetual Help's Junior Team composed of Jhenalo Maddawa and Cristopher Bautista were also in competence form, placing second to their teammate flight in the beach volleyball finals.

Southville student dominates Skate Asia 2012

KENNARD Santiagoes, a Grade 7 student of Southville International School and Colleges (SISCO) - DAS Campus, bagged three gold medals in Skateboard 250 Pound to Sunday Pyramid Box, Kicker Longest. Weekend held Aug. 3-4. Santiagoes was part of the Philippine delegation that competed in the said contest which gathered more than 1000 skaters. The event season topped the Festival. Daughters, grand Champion Spotlight categories. Its what is considered as the annual premiere event for Asian and international skaters.

Member Schools

Pass the sin tax bill and save our children

Ghaemar N. Lee-Chua

MY GRANDMOTHER died of lung cancer horribly and painfully, ten years before his time. Uncle Ed, years old, then and was upbeat at how dedicated he had become in his last days.

He smoked cigarettes for decades," my father said. "Even after he was diagnosed with cancer, he still could not quit."

As I held my father and my grandfather did not smoke in front of us but in the restroom or in the garden. Although, the ill effects of passive smoking were unknown then, he knew we would cough when we inhaled cigarette smoke.

My father, who became a doctor, and some of his siblings never smoked, since their widowed husband in behalf others on Sundays.

Highest smoking rate

According to the primer "Sin Tax is Anti-cancer Tax" from the World Health Organization (WHO) and other health groups, the Philippines has the highest smoking rate in South-east Asia. Among males, those ages above 147 6 percent of men and 9 percent of women. The smoking rate for women is the third highest in Asia, second only to Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The young, even women, who smoke. Among young smokers, 17.6 percent are girls and 26.5 percent are boys aged 13-15 years.

In 2000, the health which included my father's classmate, Dr. Anna Wales, ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which says in part that "scientific evidence has unequivocally established that, tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke cause death, disease and disability" and "there is clear scientific evidence that prompt reduction in tobacco smoke causes, substantial health and developmental outcomes for children."

If the Senate accepted the WHO Convention seven years ago, why the delay in passing the sin tax bill?

That smoking kills has been drummed into us in school, with apparently little effect, as some of my students still smoke.

In fact, our life feels, again.

Every hour, a person dies of lung cancer in the country. Over-fourth, 25 percent, of all kinds of cancers can be linked to smoking. While many cancers have genetic causes in an overall way, smoking is not.

Smoking is not just a risk factor for lung cancer, but also for cancer of the larynx, esophagus, pancreas, cervix, bladder, kidney, stomach. Among young smokers, 17% percent are girls and 26.5 percent are boys aged 13-15 years.

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bench/

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

EARTH HEALERS

Chapter 5: The Awakened Giant

Last Monday, Jojo had the Earth healers take-out about a big earthquake that might happen if the drilling and mining weren't stopped.

By Czee Abad-Ingo
Illustrated by Steph Bravo

AT LAST they were at the miners, just outside the mine fence and the gate. They could see some people moving around out of a tunnel entrance, the miners who worked above and below the surface of the earth, so that the deafening, roaring sirens didn't could go down further.

The Seniors, Mr. Manuel, part-time, wrinkling faces, stood at the second and looking big kid hands. "What are you doing? What do you want? Get outta here, shooed here."

"I need to talk to the Mayor," said Ailing Cito.

Mr. Manuel frowned at her. "You know you are not welcome here. You have been warned many times before."

"I know it," said Jojo, managing nervousness, including himself. "So you will let me in."

Mr. Manuel was taken aback. He was not used to taking commands from young boys, especially not one with blazing orange eyes, dazzling blue in the daylight. Why, there, now's Jojo gives others hope! But everyone else had to wait outside the barrier.

Mr. Manuel led Jojo into a shed next to the main entrance of the miners' mine. There were workers here, too, eating refreshments and resting back to rusty racks and pile them against the walls. More of them collected these racks and placed them inside existing drums, where they pressed a flesh, muddy metallic-smelling liquid after the ore.

When Jojo stared his head away from the Future, he caught sight of the new room.

There were tables with pails and basins on top of them. Jojo tried to look at what was inside the basins, but Mr. Manuel, recovering himself in the shock of the moment, was whisk Jojo was looking and closed the door. He that was the room where the gold was lit.

Jojo's eyes from the sludge that came from the crushing machines. He had always wanted to see what a gold nugget looked like.

There comes

Mr. Manuel gestured to the Mayor. "Mr. Manuel, you have been warned about your visits. You have been told to stay away from here."

Jojo pretended not to hear him. He watched from the window as the Mayor came out of the makeshift, air-conditioned office on the top of the mountain. He wasn't much to look at. Jojo's about, round man with a striped hair and gold-framed glasses that glistened in the sun.

What stunned Jojo most were the men around the Mayor, big and tall and like giants themselves. Jojo was relieved when the men showed no signs of entering the room with the Mayor. Two policemen in uniforms at the door, while two others stationed themselves outside on either side of the window.

The Mayor frowned at Mr. Manuel as he caught sight of Jojo. "Who is this, Manuel? What is he doing on my property?"

Mr. Manuel glanced at Jojo, and Jojo took it to mean it was his turn to speak.

"You must stop drilling right away, sir," began Jojo.

Mr. Manuel and the Mayor exchanged glances. The Mayor looked more angry. "You brought me another protester? You are really beginning to waste my time, Manuel. Maybe you prefer some other job?"

Jojo shook his head. "If you can hear, sir, we will all be in terrible danger."

"Danger? What are you, boy, a shaman or an alarmist? It is impossible we are in danger—at a good operating mine I expect you to your parents. Don't you have school time?"

Jojo heard his friend, unable to hear as the Mayor's parked up here, his gaze big red eyes and the yelling men on his forehead. He grabbed Jojo by the collar and yanked him to stand the door and out into the bright sunlight.

Jojo blinked. He could see that Ailing Cito, Eddie and all the folk who had accompanied them from Mollet Village were still waiting for him. But none ran back to them through the gate.

"Was it good for the Mayor all the more. "Do you know who I am?" he addressed the crowd. "I took care of things so that now the mountains has given us gold...more gold than we could possibly imagine."

He waved for Jojo, and some of his men, waiting for the signal, opened another shed bursting with sacks and barrels of gold.

"I also took care of you, I gave you jobs. What more do you want me to do?"

Suddenly the ground shuddered. Many of those working underground rushed to the surface, screaming. Jojo took Mr. Manuel and hoisted him up to close the monster drill. The workers storming the drill gazed at him.

"Here!" said Jojo.

The ground shook, and people cried out. The Mayor's body guards hesitated, and the workers, most of whom were people from Jojo's village, clung to the bodyguards, begging for help.

"All the ore not working will be fired," yelled the Mayor. "And will there are plenty of his gold. I am warning you!"

The ground rumbled, and boulders and rocks fell down the mountain that warned the people. The drill had stirred to a stop. In the sudden hush, the earth, now open like a river,

let ripped in half and a giant creature awoke.

Infinity-white in texture on across his chest, his eyes opaque, and tried to embrace him, but he moved and flung them aside.

He grabbed the Mayor, who was trying to look up his shed of gold. Even as the giant lifted him to get a closer look, the Mayor struggled to keep the people from scrambling sacks of gold over the arms of the giant, who was beyond the hope to him like pillows and settled back down to sleep.

In their attempt to salvage the gold for the present him, no one paid

much attention to the last of the earth's tremors, the teenage in a sudden landslide. No one, not even the Mayor, who was busy trying to keep his footing on the rocks, who slipped and fell onto the rocks below.

Next Monday: Miracles

Student activity guide

Just checking

1. What did the Mayor threaten to do with the mine workers who won't go back to work?
2. What caused the earthquake?
3. What happened to Jojo during the earthquake?

To do or think about

1. How did the heroes react toward Jojo? Why?
2. Why and how is gold mined? Research on the uses of gold and the process of mining gold.
3. Why do you think people showed lacks of gold toward the giant?
4. If you were Jojo, what would you do to help your community?

Using the inquirer

1. Make a group with four or five other classmates. Go over the newspapers and clip a story that deals with a pressing problem in your community or in the country. Summarize the problem or issue that is described in the news story. On the chart below, list three things young students like you can do to help—as an individual, as a group and as a class.

Title of story: _____		
Problem:		
Proposed actions:		
As an individual	As a group	As a class

2. In class, meet with the other groups. Make a list of the problems that the groups have chosen as a start as follows:

Group No.	Problem	Solution

3. Choose one problem to investigate as a class. Which problem did you choose and why? In what ways can you help?

MIRIAN College's Grace Pauya are getting experience in retailing at Robinsons Bolinao Corner.

Mirian marks 7th year at Entrep Corner

SHOPPERS will enjoy another festival of food treats and trendy products as Mirian College students celebrate their seventh year in Robinsons Malls Bolinao Corner.

The students are presenting "El Festival: Spreading the Spirit of Entrepreneurship" until Oct. 30 at Ms Domain, Level 1, East Lane, Robinsons Galleria, Quezon City.

More than 50 senior Mirian businessmen-in-the-making are participating in the activity, which is part of Robinsons Malls' corporate social responsibility program. Twenty student companies from E1-105, Section 1, 2 and 3 are showcasing their finest products.

The Entrep students are offering unique and innovative food products ranging from dessert to snacks to food dishes. Healthy food items are also on sale. Bag or gadgets, personalized planners, cheerful bags. These pillows and linen items and aesthetically pink and lucky as well are also available.

Maria Luisa Bello-Valdellon, faculty in charge of Deeds (Entrepreneurship Educators' Association of the Philippines) batch-mat president for SY11-2013, said the event is part of a general that the Robinsons have shared professional insights that helped them express their products and services.

For more information on the Bolinao Center, call Robinsons Land Corporation's Corporate Public Relations Department at 3078300, 3870052 or 3078888 locals 781 or 782.